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THE SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, September 13, 2006

War in Iraq claims Castleton student

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Former Castleton State College student Lance Cpl. Kurt Dechen was killed in Iraq last month while serving in the Marines.

"He always had a smile on his face," Professor Brad Hunt said. "He was very outgoing and liked to have fun."

Dechen was majoring in criminal justice at Castleton last year when he was called to duty. While attending Castleton, he did not tell his criminal justice professors of his plans to go to Iraq.

"I didn't know he went [to Iraq] until after I heard he died," Professor Laurie Rasenzweig said. "I have regrets that I had no opportunity to try to talk him out of going and to finish his degree."

Dechen was 24 when he died on Aug. 3 after being injured at Anabar Province, Iraq.

"He was a good person. He had his faults, but he was strong in belief," Dale Dechen, Kurt's mother, said in a telephone interview.

Dechen joined the Marines with his friends from Springfield when they graduated from high school in 2001, according to the Burlington Free Press. He started attending Castleton the fall semester in 2001.

"I think he was really proud of the fact he was a Marine and that he was involved in something he could make a difference in," Hunt said. "That's why he went into criminal justice and joined the Marine Corps."

Dechen was one of a few Castleton students who have either gone or could go to fight in the war in Iraq. Kurt Hunt, a friend of Dechen, will serve on active duty when he finishes college.

"Dechen's death gives [me] a sense of pride in knowing what I am giving for this country," Kurt Hunt said. "He gave his life so we can live ours, that is the ultimate sacrifice and any person in the military has sworn to do the same."

Dechen left school for a while before coming back to Castleton to finish his degree before he was called to duty.

"He wanted to do something for his country," Dale Dechen said.

Not only a military man, Dechen was known to get a class laughing and attend parties.

"He was a funny kid who always had a serious side," Kurt Hunt said.

His teachers and friends were shocked when they heard the news on the television about Dechen.

"It was like surreal that a kid, a kid, could be here one minute then not the next. He was too young to die like that," Rasenzweig said.

VYTO STARINSKIS / RUTLAND HERALD

The U.S. flag covering the casket of Marine Lance Cpl. Kurt Dechen of Springfield is folded by military color guard in front of family and friends in a Springfield cemetery in August. He died from wounds received in Iraq.

Dispatches from a world away

PHOTO SUPPLIED BY KRISTINA COLLINS

Ariel Delaney and Kristina Collins are Castleton students and Spartan staff members who left for Lima, Peru in August to study for the semester. They will include an installment each issue of The Spartan this fall.

By Kristina Collins and
Ariel Delaney
Spartan Staff

LIMA, PERU -- If four thousand miles and an ocean weren't enough to make us realize that we weren't in Castleton anymore, public transportation did it. There are three types of buses here: autobuses, combis and micros.

We take the combis, which are a little smaller than the Rutland public buses, but include a lot of duct tape. Yes, like Vermont, duct tape is also popular here.

Beyond transportation, Lima is a special place. For starters, the government has a palace, and while democratic, it is a little more complicated than one would expect with different ministries and presidents for each province.

Kids graduate secondary school at 15. Then they go to a university for five to seven years, depending on the concentration.

We are going to the Universidad de Lima, which teaches about 16,000 students, all commuters.

About 10 buildings tower over the campus yet there are only three - count them - three open computer labs for students. Just imagine the lines.

It is winter here, which means 60 degrees, and people bundled up in scarves and coats while the two Vermont girls are suffocating.

Lima is in a desert, but the climate is very moist because it sits so close to the Pacific Ocean. The rain is more of a mist, so we never have to worry about puddles.

What amazes us is that in a city of seven million people, you wonder how anyone can stand listening to so much 80's American music. We've heard "Eye of the Tiger" and Madonna more than Shakira.

Total Peruvian immersion, however, is rather difficult with Starbucks, Burger King, McDonald's and Dunkin Donuts flooding the streets. And our school is across the street from Jockey Plaza, one of the biggest malls in Lima.

Well, like the school's motto says, "Sabes, Piensas, Haces," which means "know, think, do."

We look forward to doing more of that while discovering Peru.

The Ritter word

By Eva Kane Leenman
Spartan Staff

Scott Ritter

He used to be all for the military - now he's one of the most fervent anti-war campaigners in the United States.

His name is Scott Ritter, and he's coming to Castleton State College.

Formerly the chief weapons inspector for the United Nations Special Commission in Iraq, Ritter is one of the few with inside knowledge of Iraq's weapon systems to brazenly protest the war prior to the invasion on Iraq.

He's the guy who said there were no weapons of mass destruction and that Iraq was not a threat to the United States.

Ritter, who will be speaking at the Fine Arts Center on Tuesday, Sept. 26, was born into a military family as William S. Ritter, Jr. After college, he signed up with the United States Marine Corps. He has worked as a military intelligence officer, an analyst for the Marine Corps Rapid Deployment Force, a consultant for Fox News and a ballistic missile advisor.

So why the change of heart?

As weapons inspector for seven years, Ritter coordinated teams searching for weapons of mass destruction throughout Iraq. Feeling that the Security Council and the U.S. government was keeping him from doing his job, he resigned in August of 1998, writing in his resignation letter that "illusion of arms control is more dangerous than no arms control at all."

Ritter then accused U.S. intelligence agents of destroying the inspection team's credibility, by using weapons inspectors as smoke-screens for spying.

He has since been an unreserved critic on U.S. policy towards Iraq, and more currently, Iran.

Ritter's talk, titled "Targeting Iran," was organized by professor Sanjukta Ghosh who asked him to come to speak because of several reasons.

"I wanted to bring in a military voice," she said. "We're already in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and we're almost poised to invade Iran. I want [Ritter] to be here, chiefly, because there's a real possibility of war and I have students set to be deployed next year."

Ghosh, who has two students who are going to C.S.C. through the ROTC program and one student already in Iraq, wants her students to know what they're going [to war] for. She said that most members of the Bush administration pushing for war have never been in the military. The ones that have served are not for military action. Ghosh also stressed that when most students register for selective service, they are unaware that they are also being registered for draft.

"The U.S. Army will be so thinly spread," Ghosh said, "there's a real possibility of a draft ... I want my students in the classrooms, not the war fields."

Ritter is the author of several books: "War on Iraq," "Endgame: Solving the Iraq Crisis", "Frontier Justice: Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Bushwhacking of America," and most recently, "Target Iran: The Truth About the White House's Plans for Regime Change," which will be available Sept. 28.Ritter's speech will run from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

SOUNDINGS

Read your fellow student's opinions in our new Soundings section. See page 4 for Sounding Off!

Next event:
Sept. 14th, N-Period (12:30 p.m.), Herrick Auditorium, "Liberal Elites & Local Democrats: The Cultural Politics of the Constitution, Then and Now"

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A look at the beautifully landscaped Japanese garden at Mount Zion in Hubbardton!

Suri about the mess

By Brad Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

So much potential. So much promise. So many eager, hopeful viewers tuning in to see history. So many expectations.

So much damn baby Suri.

Call it what you will (The Today Show: Primetime, disgraceful, disappointing) but Katie Couric's debut on the CBS Evening News raised a middle finger to all the critics and did exactly what many of them never expected: made no attempt at respectability whatsoever.

There was no attempt to duke it out with Williams and Gibson, in terms of substance, anyway. As far as the ratings go, Couric and CBS destroyed the competition, beating both NBC and ABC by close to five-million viewers, the only time in the last 13 years they've done so. This was mostly out of curiosity, to see how Couric would do. I hope, anyway.

What I was hoping for was some kind of exclusive interview. Couric talking with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, maybe one of Hezbollah's leaders.

But all I got were exclusive pics of baby Suri and one more reason to cringe at Tom Cruise.

It's not Couric's fault, of course. The big wigs at CBS probably chose her first broadcast to run the photos. Or maybe it was Cruise. Scientologists at his level are supposed to be able to control people with their minds. I kind of wish I was kidding. Maybe he just threw a little money their way and hoped for the best.

So instead of running stories about pressing world issues or uplifting human-interest pieces, CBS gives the public a few minutes of celebrity baby pics. Take out the commercials and the average news program runs about 22 minutes. Now take out the time it took for the pictures to be shown and realize the decision was made to give 18 or so minutes to cover everything else that happened in the world, plus a little Morgan Spurlock thrown in. Dude has an envy-inducing 'stache.

The evening news is too short anyway and throwing crap like Cruise and his baby in there gives the important stuff an even smaller window to be shown. No wonder people can't find Iraq on a map.

And the thing that makes me saddest about all of this is that I usually don't care about things like this. I don't watch the evening news and I don't really care all that much about Katie Couric.

It just felt like such a momentous occasion. This is the first woman ever to hold the full-time anchor position on an evening news cast. This could have been huge. Her first broadcast. I could have been compelled to tune in every weeknight, waiting to see what kind groundbreaking, exclusive story Couric was cooking up for me. It could have felt like a real nightly newscast. No fluff, just meat and potatoes.

But instead it felt like a Tuesday morning and I was sitting around watching photos of a baby with a head of hair that puts Matt Lauer's to shame and waiting for Ann Curry to come on. And really, isn't she the only reason to watch?

Our pledge to The Spartan faithful

By Kenneth Tyler
Spartan Editor

Welcome back Spartans! Another short summer has passed with nothing left but a blur of sunshine haze and story time memories as we are now all back in the reality of homework, bibliographies and of course, keggers.

But do not despair fellow students, we here at The Spartan are determined to give you your bi-weekly dose of breaking news, diverse feature stories, in-depth sports coverage, theater and arts reviews and, of course, the campus low down.

But we too are students, trying to hone the skills we're learning and gain more experiences in reporting and writing.

Therefore we will, like everyone else, make mistakes as we go.

We will make spelling mistakes.

We will forget items here and there and every now and then we may even get something wrong.

But we will not; however, pass it over and forget about it, we will acknowledge the mistakes and fix them.

We will do everything in our ability to check and re-check items and facts, but again we are still learning, still trying to get it right and not to mention we are not paid.

With that said lets get right down to business. Last year we got something wrong, well I did actually. In the last issue I wrote an editorial titled "Down with the Hippies." I got that very, very wrong. You see I was trying to write a tongue and cheek column or sarcastic response to the lack of support a Castleton student was getting.

The student was trying to develop a program, which I supported, that would allow for students to recycle vegetable oil for use in their cars.

But the article didn't go over well and after several hate emails and an invitation to the "hippie hater club" on facebook I realized that I was wrong.

At first I thought that I wasn't clear enough in my writing, but after several reads it dawned on me that I shouldn't have used sarcasm to the extent that I did. Instead I should have stated my case, cited my reasons why and weighed the alternatives. Not doing that caused confusion and to some extent anger.

For that I am sorry. I apologize to anyone who I may have insulted with my article to include the administration who has worked hard to get Castleton "greener".

Looking toward the upcoming year, we here at the Spartan will make certain that what we put in this paper is only of the highest standard. We will read and re-read each other's work to ensure that only quality journalism is printed each issue.

With that, I and everyone at the Spartan wish you all the best in the upcoming year and hope to see you all at the newsstands every other Wednesday to pick the latest edition of The Spartan.

Something to say? Join the team.

By David Blow
Spartan Advisor

I'll be brief because I'd rather have you spend more time with the student editorials on this page than the annual plea for help from the newspaper advisor.

It's year two of the latest reincarnation of The Spartan. The staff is larger, we have a new camera, and new computer and a still new Web site (castletonspartan.com).

I think we're on the right path, but we could be better.

We need even more bodies to send us material - and not just news stories - but fictional works, short stories, poetry, columns - whatever.

We want your photos, your feedback and your story ideas - from students, faculty and staff alike. We really could use another editorial cartoonist to help Jesse Durona.

We want comments on our stories, which now can be done on the web site with ease.

And we also desperately need an enterprising business student who'd like to say he or she is the advertising director of the paper. The student could gain experience selling and designing ads both in print and online.

I'll stop pleading now. Actually one more plea to journalism students. If you aren't working on The Spartan, you should be - even as an occasional contributor. Future employers will ask why you didn't. Believe me.

Anyone interested in joining the Spartan team, e-mail me at david.blow@castleton.edu or the managing editor Kenneth.tyler@castleton.edu

A plea for advice!

By Janet Perron
Spartan Staff

Homework and classes, and for some it's work and clubs too. Oh, and don't forget a social life.

The student athlete or those involved in theater productions, the student who's involved in almost every club on campus, the student who has a job in addition to classes, the student who tutors or takes overload credits.

If that is you, when was the last time someone told you you're amazing?

Well, that is exactly what I am doing!

This semester I am running for the Castleton Cross-Country team, taking 15 credits and am involved in Reel Action Club. Time is something I have little of. With classes, homework, meetings, practices, travel times to cross-country meets and the race itself, showering, eating, sleeping, and laundry … well there is little time for anything else.

Those of you out there who do this every semester, how do you do it?

Being a senior you would think I would have time management down to an art. I don't. I am so busy it's hard to find time to just breathe.

I am asking you, my fellow Castleton State College students, to help me. If there are any tips you can give me on how to manage it all, I am all ears. If you are feeling the same way I am, overwhelmed with it all, feeling like you bit off more than you can chew and you're choking in it then I want to hear form you too. Tell me I am not alone!

Please write to me.

Log on to www.castleton-spartan.com and look for this story. Scroll down to the bottom and there is a comments box. I will get to read and respond to what you have to say and others who log on will get to read your stories and advice too! You can be anonymous with your stories and comments so have no fear.

Put out your butt, I don't want to see it

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Everywhere you look there are places to properly dispose of cigarette butts, yet everywhere you look, there are butts lying all over the ground.

Now if people want to smoke, that's fine, it's their problem, but when they make it everyone's problem by leaving their trash scattered around the campus, then we have a problem. Castleton might as well give up its "green" stance, because with all the cigarette butts on the ground, the school has already lost it.

It's sad when the students in a school can recycle more than they can dispose of their trash. How hard is it to walk a foot, or heaven forbid two, to put a cigarette butt into the allotted spot. My personal favorite is when there is a little circle of discarded cigarette butts right next to the standing ashtray.

Nothing is more disgusting than going to sit on the ground and discovering you are sitting on 10 butts, and 10 people's saliva. Sometimes it seems like the grass turned into cigarette butts. It's the best way to turn a scenic place into a dump, that's for sure.

Just look around the amphitheater.

Then there are the people who spend so much time picking up the cigarette butts, only to have to go out the next day and see the spot they cleaned up already back in a mess. Do all of you out there really think it is OK to throw your butts on the ground? It is the single most debasing act toward a college that is trying so hard to be more environmentally friendly and clean.

Why don't you try stuff your cigarette in the ash tray when you're done? See if it hurts anyone. Go on, try.

Disagree with an article printed in The Spartan?

Want to let the student body hear what you have to say?

Send your letters to the Editor to Thespartan@castleton.edu

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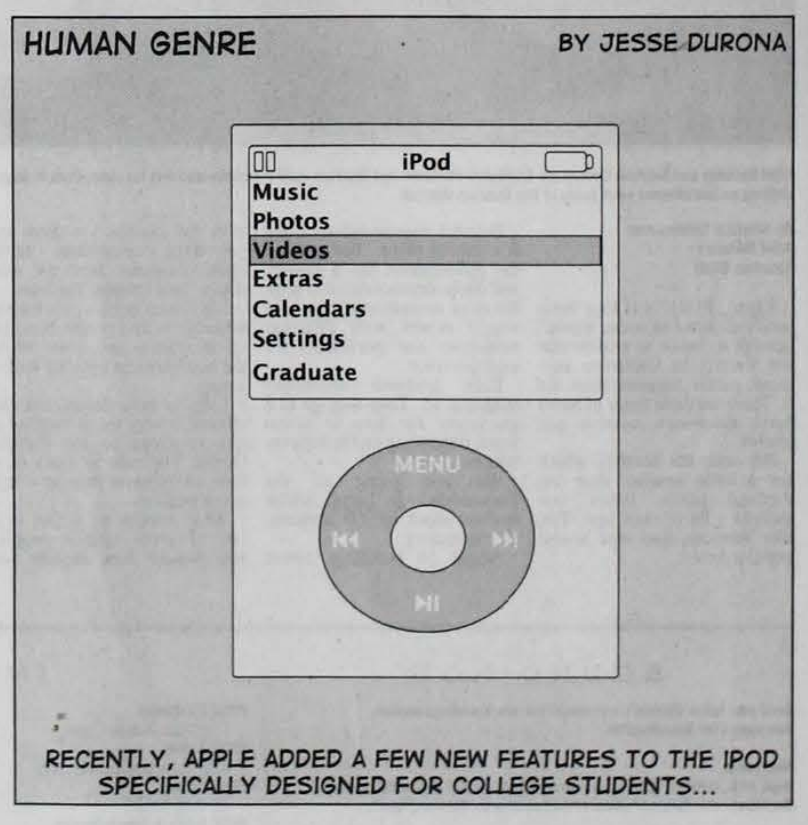

Ennis Duling: The man behind the lens

By Michelle Spier and Stevan Geiger
Spartan Contributors

Arriving before most students even start classes, Ennis Duling tucks himself in a private office in Woodruff where he begins every day.

He starts work by updating the school Web site -- something that many 3of us just take for granted. From there he could be answering calls from the media, fact-finding for administrative projects or working on a variety of college publications that he oversees.

As director of public information, Duling works on a lot of little projects throughout the year - and always does so without trying to attract any attention to himself.

He edits the annual alumni magazine, is a part of college President Dave Wolk's cabinet, and can always be seen taking photos of school events for the Castleton print and online products.

"Picture taking is important" said Duling in an interview late last semester.

He obviously believes believes strongly in that comment, having missed few Castleton events - including photographing almost every theater production - since 1988.

PHOTO BY JESSIE KROL

Ennis Duling takes a step back from his camera to pose in front of another camera.

Duling has been at Castleton for 18 years, and has seen countless changes during that time - but not as many as his wife, Sandy. Sandy Duling rounds out Castleton's Duling duo as the school's librarian, and has been employed by the college for 19 years.

Sandy spoke proudly of her husband's efforts on behalf of the college.

"People don't realize how much work he's done," she said.

Ennis graduated from Gettysburg College as a history major and started out working as a reporter and editor for Ski Racing Magazine.

"I learned how to write news stories by doing them," he said.

After spending five years around college events, Duling said he thought it seemed like college was a good place to work.

When a public information coordinator job first opened up at Castleton, Duling jumped at the opportunity.

As the college grew, there was more of a demand for public relations and his job developed into the current director of public information post.

Because Duling's job deals very closely with the public, he said he follows Wolk's motto of "Tell the truth, tell it well, and tell it often."

Wolk, when asked what Duling means to the college, called him Castleton's "unsung hero," who is "dedicated, diligent and meticulous to detail in all of our internal and external communications."

"Most importantly, he loves Castleton and that is exemplified by the many publications of the college that reveal more than pictures and articles about our college, but also a deeply felt devotion to our history and tradition, as well as a commitment to our future," Wolk wrote in an e-mailed response. "He loves Castleton, and we love him, too!"

Two dorms down - kind of - one to go

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

The week before school started, athletes and community advisors who had moved back to campus were awakened daily to the sound of construction workers hard at work beginning at 6 a.m. and going well into the evening.

On Saturday night before Monday classes began, the students began moving into the campus' new South and North halls.

PHOTO BY BETH PANTZER

A staircase leads to the unfinished basement in the North dorm.

And on Monday morning at seven, the construction workers were at it again, waking up some of the residents.

"[The construction] is annoying; it wakes us up," Mollie McKenzie said.

Two of the three new dorms were ready for the start of fall semester although students who arrived early for community advisor training or sports had to wait until Saturday to move in.

And while the living parts of the halls are mostly finished and the main systems are installed, there is still much work to be done and lots of dust flying around.

"I felt the inconvenience of traveling to Rutland outweighed coming home to construction," Dennis Proulx, the director of residence life, said referring to the need to house students in motel rooms when Castleton Hall was built .

In the South and North halls, completion of the lounges in the basements were delayed, but the "bedrooms and bathrooms were reasonably ready to go," Proulx said.

The Center Hall is not yet ready to live in because the floor has not been installed and the walls need to be painted. If everything goes as planned, the Center Hall will be open by October, Proulx said. When Center Hall opens, it will be occupied by first year students who are living in temporary rooms across campus.

Currently, lights are dim outside the new dorms, leaving them bathed in darkness with no accessibility to an emergency call button, and construction material is scattered in front of the buildings. The blue emergency pole has been ordered and should be installed within the next couple of weeks, Dean of Administration William Allen said.

PHOTO BY BETH PANTZER

A view of the new dorms located North of Glenbrook Gym.

"I don't know that those blue buttons have been used in an emergency," Allen said. "I feel pretty comfortable that people are safe."

Although the buildings have yet to be finished, students' interests are piqued. Several decided to visit the new buildings, some with envy for the newness, others just for a taste of something new.

"I am planning to go," Kali Gayne said. "I'm really curious just to see what they are like."

Each building contains a classroom, a basement lounge, a laundry room and eight suites, called pods. Each pod contains a sink and three rooms for a total of 48 residents per building.

"It's a lot neater; I can take a shower barefoot if I wanted to," said Mckenzie, a former Babcock Hall resident.

While students appreciate the new building and furniture, the pods are isolated. There is a door separating the two pods on the left from the two on the right, as well as a door to every pod, creating a maze on each floor.

"It's strangely very, very quiet," student Ray Boule said. "I'd like to see more interaction, but I think it's natural for people to stay in their pods."

The classrooms need furniture, but classes will be held in the new halls starting next semester, though which classes will be held there hasn't been determined.

"Fresh" thoughts

By Joanna Doolan

What exactly is the "fun" part of college?

Every day you hear about how everyone went to parties the night before, or did something fun and crazy. Yet so far there has been no fun in my college experience to speak of. Just stress.

Remember that old saying, "There isn't enough time in day"? Oh, boy, how true that is. I was never involved in anything in high school, so I didn't realize how much we have to do in so little time.

I always wondered why people were so wigged out all the time. It couldn't be that bad right?

Guess I was completely wrong. Now that I hit college, I'm swamped. I thought I would make up for lost time. Between five classes, rugby, the newspaper and trying to get a job, how will I ever get time for myself?

And on top of that, there's that pesky "social life" deal. Maybe when you first come to college, you strive too hard to do everything possible. I'm wondering if everyone else is feeling out of place and stressed out.

If you are, don't feel alone.

It might be because there is so much to offer, or we just want to do so much, but it seems like every freshmen is overloaded.

And if you try to do everything you burn out. So when is there time for all these parties people go on about? Or time for any fun at all?

Is it because upper classmen are slackers, or just better at balancing their time?

I can't handle it because I'm not used to it, but others who are used to it are still in trouble.

I'm really trying to hang out with friends and get out of my dorm to have fun. But I'm sore, tired and still missing home.

I wonder if or when this gets any better. Is there some magic key to unlocking this mystery?

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Recent grads open Main St. computer business

By Brad Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

PHOTO BY BRAD WATERHOUSE

Thomas Dukeshire (left) and Christopher Cole (right) stand outside their Rural Techs office at 614 Main St. in Castleton. The two Castleton grads opened the business less than four months ago.

Thomas Dukeshire is sitting at a small metal table outside the Birdseye Diner waiting for a turkey and bacon wrap.

Sipping coffee under a large umbrella, Dukeshire looks content.

The bright yellow mug holding his coffee matches perfectly his button-down shirt and the sun, finally peaking out from behind the clouds, brightens the mood even more.

But if you ask around, Dukeshire usually manages to do that very thing all by himself.

Dukeshire, who's 21st birthday is still a few weeks away, along with his 27-year-old business partner Christopher Cole, just opened a new technology consulting and services business called Rural Techs on Main Street, less than a block from where he usually has lunch.

"Two Castleton grads, that's all it is," Dukeshire said in between sips of coffee. "Right across the street from the college."

The two are, indeed, former Castleton students, with Dukeshire completing his program with a bachelor's of science degree in computer information systems and business with a math minor and Cole having a B.S. in computer information systems as well.

They've worked together for about three years and both men decided to open the business because there wasn't one like the one they had in mind existed in the area.

"There's a hole in the industry here," Dukeshire said.

Most places that offer the same services do so out of a home and work only with either businesses or residential customers.

Rural Techs works with both, and out of an office, which Dukeshire feels makes a huge difference to customers.

"People seem to like being able to walk in a chat with somebody," he said. "I like to explain to them why things work and it's easier to do that in person."

Along with helping out customers, the idea of being their own boss was appealing and another reason they partnered up.

"I like working for myself and being able to grow with a business that I created," Cole said.

Rural Techs has only been open since June 1, but their list of satisfied customers is already growing.

One such customer, Mary Beth Hadeka, has had the men work on both her home computer and the computers used at her business, Hadeka Stone Company.

"I am thrilled to death that they are located in our community," she said.

I'm probably going to be hooked up to them on a weekly basis. Because I'm spoiled."

Another customer, Linda Elrick of West Rutland, had Dukeshire come to her home to help with the dreaded blue screen of death.

"I had called Dell and they were basically not a lot of help," she said. "It was nice to have someone say 'This is what happened and this is what I can do to fix it."

"I'll personally recommend him to all my friends," Elrick said, laughing. "I told him that I would paint him like he walked on water."

From their tiny office next to Special Effects salon, Dukeshire and Cole offer a number of services, many with lower prices than competitors.

From new computer consulting, (they go through the entire process of ordering a new computer for someone, from giving them quotes on machines that best fit their budget to delivering it to their house, completely set up) to working with local schools, Rural Techs hope to become the go-to place for the areas technology needs.

"One short term goal is to settle into the community and basically become a staple here," Dukeshire said, headset firmly in place and ready for potential callers. "We want to be the technology consultants for this area."

Both Dukeshire and Cole feel the stresses of opening a small business daily, and with Cole working a full-time job in addition to running Rural Techs with Dukeshire, the stress is sometimes double.

But both men are taking things in stride and enjoying what they've both wanted to do for a long time.

"I've wanted to open my own business, since, I dunno, since I was a freshman in high school," Dukeshire said, multitasking as he works on three computers at a time.

But it wasn't a computer business. I wanted to open a restaurant."

Like many of Rural Techs customers, local broker Aleda Dutton is happy he stuck with computers. When asked if she'd go back to have Dukeshire fix her computers again, her answer:

"Absolutely. He's our computer guy."

30-keg bash at Huden Dining Hall?

When the drinking age was 18, the beer flowed freely on campus

By Christina M. LaBarge
Spartan Staff

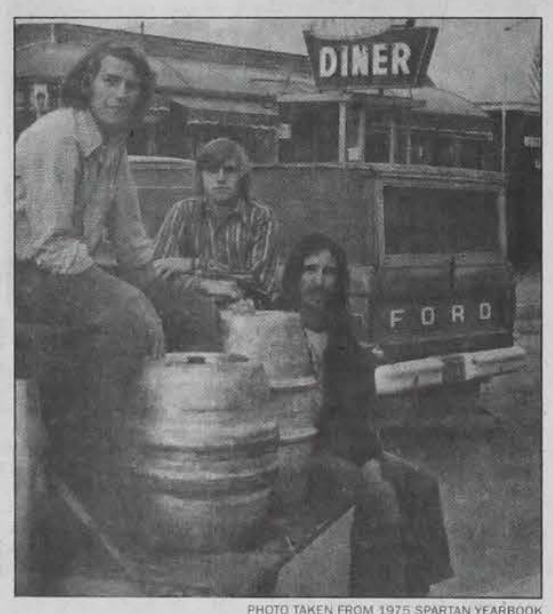


PHOTO TAKEN FROM 1975 SPARTAN YEARBOOK

When the drinking age was 18, tailgate keg parties were typical at Castleton State.

Back when Columbo was solving your weekly mystery, Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin were ruling the radio, hair spray was a weekly purchase and Mr. T was the coolest guy in town -- Huden Dining Hall hosted keg parties.

Back in the '70s and '80s when many of us were being born and others of us were playing with the latest Cabbage Patch doll, our parents and elders were kicking back beers in Huden and going to many school sponsored festivals.

"I had a couple of friends from New York City who were DJ's, they used to come with equipment and break dancers," said Chrispin White, director of community service and internships who is also a Castleton Alumni from the class of 1986. White said faculty and staff used to come together for games and events on a weekly basis.

"Everyone had fun together," said White.

And keg-laden festivals were all the hype back in the 1970s, memorialized in nearly every yearbook of the decade. The drinking age was 18 at the time and professors and students recall that the kegs were popular and helped draw a crowd.

"Fall Foliage Festival in October was deemed a success. It began unofficially on Wednesday with an eight keg party in the basement of Adams," a blurb from the 1975 Castleton year book reads.

"It's a whole different ball game when you can drink at 18," said Victoria Angis assistant dean for campus life, when asked about the fewer number of students who turn out for events on campus today.

"Not every student had an I-Pod or a DVD player with a TV in their room," said Angis, offering further evidence on how things have changed on campus in 30 years.

But Professor Paul Albro, who has taught at the college since 1977, said factors other than not serving beer have led to decreasing attendance at campus events.

"Students didn't work as much as they do now," he said "Maybe it was because tuition was cheaper."

Albro also offered some insight into a Castleton State College world that current students can't possibly understand, a world of parties on campus,

Please see **KEGS**, *PAGE 6*

Nothing digital here

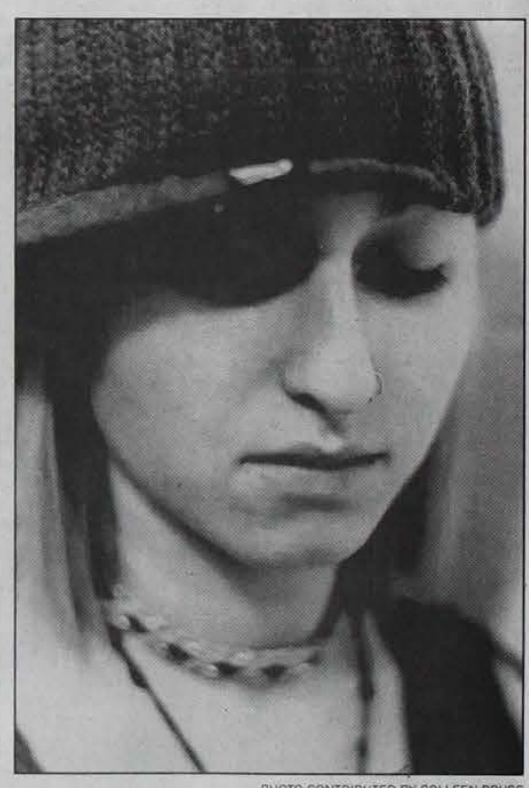


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY COLLEEN PRUSS

Meaghan Thompson poses for portrait for a Photo I assignment

By Karl Tucker
Spartan Contributer

As "Photography I" student Kim Dickenson drops her photo paper into the first developer, she slowly sees the emergence of a figure as the paper turns from a foggy gray to a crisp black and white contrast.

The satisfaction lights up her face.

"I feel free. I get to manipulate the photo to how I like it," she said.

Photographers are having a tougher time finding traditional camera supplies in the digital age and black and white photos are even harder to come by. But the art department at Castleton State College isn't willing to let go of the old way of developing just yet.

The college still offers a "Photography I" class that specializes in teaching the fine art of real photography. All you need is an open mind, a 35mm camera, some black and white film and some photography paper.

Black and white pictures show expression and emotion and come to life in the developing process - something you can't see with a digital camera. They come to life through the gentle slow process of gently sifting a piece of paper through chemicals.

Dona Ann McAdams, an accomplished photographer who teaches the course, enthusiastically directs her students with vivid description and always-moving hands.

To every class she brings books to draw inspiration from. She stresses that each artist has a different image that he or she likes to bring forth.

"You are able to look at detail and spend some time looking at the photos - and sometimes they aren't looked at, but that's OK," she said.

Amanda Barrett, the teaching assistant for last semester's class, said she enjoys the experience of practical teaching and helping mentor students.

"I definitely want to continue photography as my main profession," she said. "And I want to mentor students, young and old alike.

Please see **PHOTO**, *PAGE 6*

CSC actors add new twist to Miller classic "The Crucible"

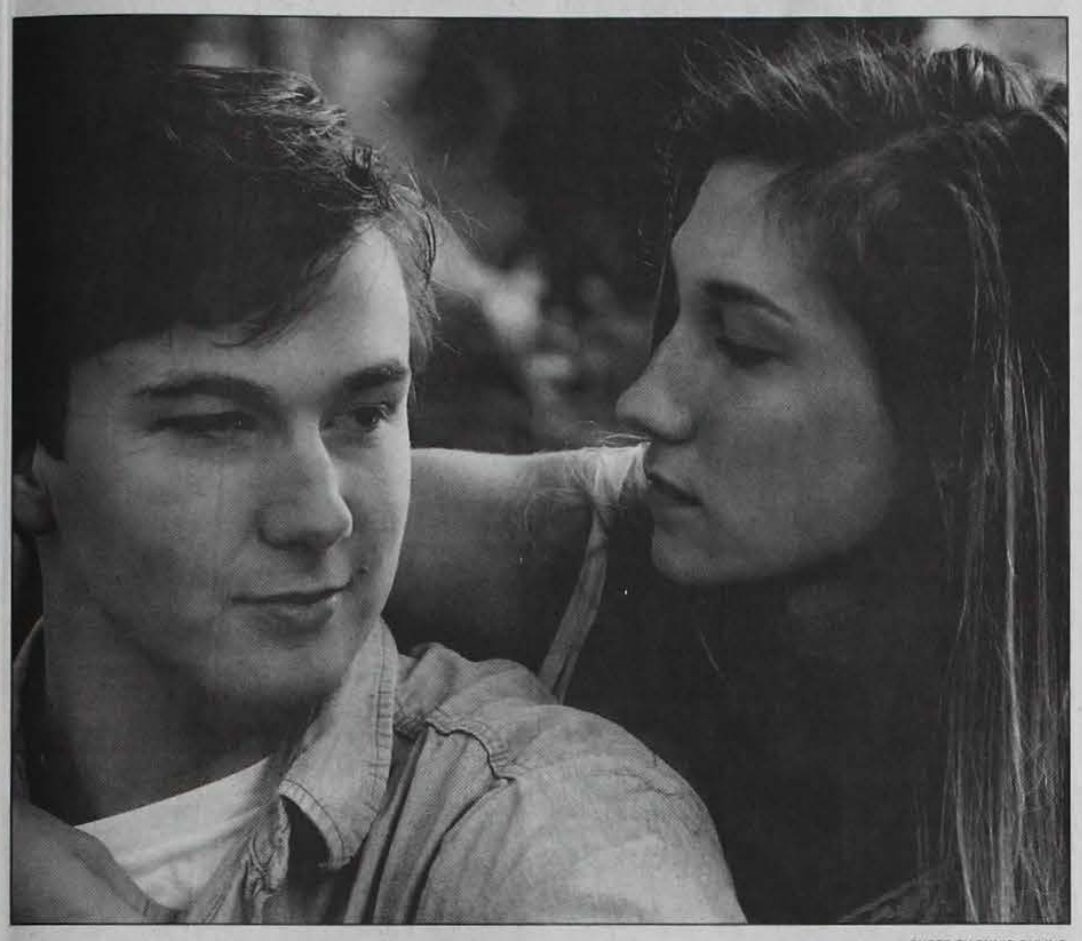


PHOTO BY ENNIS DULING

Christina LaBarge and David Gabaree play the leads in the upcoming play "The Crucible."

By Betsy Parks
Spartan Staff

When Arthur Miller wrote and released the play "The Crucible" in the early 1950's, he knew a witch hunt when he saw one.

Centering on the story of fallout from a scandalous relationship during the Salem Witch Trials in 1690, Miller's classic "The Crucible," bolstered by his own studies of the colonial hysteria, is widely believed to be a symbol for the McCarthy era of American politics and anti-communism.

And beginning on Sept. 21 at 8 p.m., the Castleton State College theater arts department will cut to the quick in their production by setting it in McCarthy's 1950's.

"We are putting a spin on it that will really surprise our audience and I think truly please them and make them think," said Christina LaBarge, who plays Abigail Williams, a villainous woman who sets much of the play's conflicts in motion.

Much like McCarthy, the former junior senator from Wisconsin who set off a hunt for communists in congress and the United States in an effort to bolster his power, Abigail accuses townspeople of black magic and witchcraft to raise her own power and status among a community that looked down on her.

But as many discover too late, she uses this power only for her own desires.

Director Steve Small, who joins the cast as a special guest from the Addison Repertory Theater at the Patricia A Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, said Miller's original production meant to hold a mirror to the McCarthy era as it was performed during that time.

The updated setting however, works for today's audiences.

"That's why we moved the mirror a little closer," he said.

"The Crucible" is the first production of the semester, and although it's only been roughly a month since the classes started, the cast and crew are ready for action.

"I think the production as a whole is coming together very nicely," said Stage Director Katherine Bernhard. "The first show of the year is never easy, but this cast is rising to the occasion beautifully."

"They're really working hard," said Small, "and I'm very confident that it's going to be a very good show."

"The Crucible" runs from Sept. 21-23, at 8 p.m. and again on Sept. 24, 2 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Tickets are $8 for the general public, $4 for Castleton students (with a student ID). The play also counts as a Soundings event and tickets are free for Soundings students (also with an ID).

The Cast:

Betty Parris- Heather Barnes
Reverend Samuel Parris- Bryon Schmidt
Tituba- Victoria Vondle
Abigail Williams- Christina Marie LaBarge
Susanna Wallcott- Eliza Baker
Ann Putnam- Michelle Ross
Thomas Putnam- Matthew Donnelly
Mercy Lewis- Eva Zimmerman
Mary Warren- Summers Eatmon
John Proctor- David Gabaree
Rebecca Nurse- Flo Keyes
Giles Corey- Julian DeFelice
Reverend John Hale- Sam Ducharme
Elizabeth Proctor- Lauren Martin
Francis Nurse- Matthew Howk
Ezekiel Cheever- Jesse Durona
John Willard- Austin Shafer
Judge Hathorne- Michael Trzciensky
Sarah Good- Michelle Page

Sounding Off

The place for Soundings Information & Feedback

Event Countdown - 4 down 16 more to go!

Upcoming events:

History

Sept. 14th, N-Period (12:30 p.m.), Herrick Auditorium, "Liberal Elites & Local Democrats: The Cultural Politics of the Constitution, Then and Now"

What is constitutional or unconstitutional? The answer may depend on who is interpreting the Constitution. Come hear what U.S. historian Jason Opal from Colby College has to say about the Constitution.

Music

Sept. 19, N-Period, Herrick Auditorium, "You're Listening to WHAT? Students and Music at CSC"

Do you think you know what your fellow students are listening to? Come find out if you are right. Ron Sherwin, CSC's assistant professor of music, presents the results of an informal study he did about musical preferences here on our own campus.

Theatre

Sept. 21-23 at 8:00 p.m. and Sept. 24 at 2 p.m., Fine Arts Center, The Crucible

Come enjoy Arthur Miller's powerful play about the witch hunt in 1690's Salem (or is it the Communist hunt in 1950's America?). Let the play prompt some deep thoughts about the integrity of a society that uses fear tactics to deprive citizens of basic rights and causes them to turn on each other to save themselves.

Soundings event feedback: Woods Tea Company, Aug. 29

Question: Music is a form of communication. What did tonight's performance communicate to you?

"Tonight's music communicated many thoughts and feelings. The tone of the voices and the instruments sometimes sounded lively and happy. Other times the feelings were sad and mournful, especially in "There Were Roses." There was deep joy in the song written for the grandchild born in Paris. There was an overall feeling of profound friendship shared by the band and pride they all held in each other's talent. I felt very relaxed and peaceful and enjoyed the laid-back atmosphere and lovely music.
- Larina Steinke

"The music played tonight had many different ideas and themes. First off the Irish and Scottish based music rang close to my heart because I am Irish and Scottish. It was beautifully crafted and made me feel as though I was there. One really got a sense of the different musicians' personalities. The song towards the end, 'December Child,' was very moving and really gave me a warm sense of family--you could tell that he is a great dad and leader." - Lindsey Lyle

"The Woods Tea Company is to manufactured popular music as a winding country road is the freeway." - Brad Lussier

"It was fun. I would like to set up a dance floor and some strobe lights." - Ken Murakami

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Was it a success? A flop? Please contact a Soundings instructor or Spartan advisor David Blow to share your thoughts.

Critics' picks of tunes and flicks

"Modern Times" They Are A-Changin'

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

Bob Dylan has always had a way of dragging even the most stone-cold-sober of souls into his tavern of bluesy, electrified-barstool-folk.

Love him or hate him, Dylan's impact on the music industry is undeniable, having influenced nearly every band in existence since Leary's psychedelic-sixties. Even at the weathered age of 65, Dylan proves once again that he's still got a few tricks up his sleeve with his new album "Modern Times."

The album sounds like it was recorded in a small pub, amidst the smell of cigarettes and cheap booze. You can almost see the drunken barfly swaying her way across the room to the sound of Dylan's trademark vocal rasp.

This may be a new album, yet there is very little newness about it. It's pretty much the same old feel-pity-for-the-working-man blues-folk-rock that Dylan has made famous for almost half a century. That's not to say that's such a bad thing, though.

All the stuff that makes Bob Dylan so great can be found on this record. Bluesy guitar? Check. Politically motivated lyrics? Check. Dylan's love-it or hate-it nasal vocal stylings? Oh yeah, you better believe that's here, too.

This time around, Dylan actually sounds like he's singing less out of his nose and more out of the phlegm in the back of his throat. In many cases some of the great lyrics are wasted, simply because Dylan seems to slur the words together incoherently. Such is a consequence of age, I suppose, but the sound is still uniquely Dylan-- which is all that matters.

There are some terrifically written songs on this album, as well as a few snoozers. The album opens with "Thunder on the Mountain," a groovin' road-trippin' tune that would make the late, great Hunter S. Thompson proud. "Workingman's Blues #2" echoes much of John Lennon's solo work, and "When the Deal Goes Down" mirrors those old time country ballads your father may have force-fed you as a child.

As for the not so good, "Spirit on the Water" sounds like a song I heard in a Motel 6 elevator. But that's about as harsh as my criticism is going to get for the most part.

Overall it's definitely worth a listen. It's no "Blonde on Blonde," but it's definitely not just some half-hearted attempt to cash in on the nostalgia of the sixties that so many of us edumakated college students lust for.

The album suffers from minor issues such as the repetitive nature of the songs; some are stretched thinner than Nicole Richie's waistline, as many of the songs clock in at more than six minutes in length. But it's still distinctly Dylan, and in these "Modern Times," that's all a neo-classic-rocker like myself can ask for.

DVD Review: World Trade Center

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

The movie World Trade Center showed us what most of us didn't see on Sept. 11.

It went past the news cameras and right into the mountain of rubble and twisted steel, which used to be the World Trade Center.

We are shown what it truly was like to be a survivor in the rubble, just trying to live for not only their own lives, but for the loved ones back home.

This movie isn't about what the government did in response to the attack or even what the terrorists did, it's about what citizens did in response.

World Trade Center follows the true accounts of police officers John McLaughlin and William J. Jimeno from waking up that morning to being trapped under concrete and steel.

They are average people with families, so it became quite easy to become connected with the two men.

Some of us may not have known anyone who personally suffered from the attack, but the portrayals of these two men and their families brought us there and showed us what it was like.

Do I or anyone else want to know what I was like to go through such an ordeal?

Of course not, but WTC gives you a much clearer understanding of what happened from the citizens point of view, not what the TV showed us.

The movie sticks us right in the rubble, face-to-face feeling the claustrophobia with the two officers in what they thought were their dwindling hours.

We stood by their families as they watch the news reports, wait for the phone to ring and try to help each other.

WTC also shows us that there is hope no matter what happens to us. As long as we stand strong and we have each other we will pull through.

It attempts to show that there was more than just destruction on 9-11; there was the drive of love for family, friends and even complete strangers.

All of the actors did a good job projecting the emotion to capture the audience to feel the same. Usually after a movie, the theater is full of commotion. When this movie ended, however, they walked out in silence, not wanting to comment about it.

I believe we were all struck by the emotional deliverance of the movie on behalf of the actors, but perhaps more so because it was real five years ago.

If this movie was about a made up attack it definitely wouldn't have been as powerful. But it triggered emotions we remember feeling and maybe not wanting to remember. World Trade Center is a well-done emotional look at the lives of only a couple of the victims of the World Trade Center.

It is not shoveled together with multimillion-dollar special effects with big explosions and graphic scenes. Nor does it aim to portray the event as a big spectacle, but a day we will always remember with grief.

Black and white photos

PHOTO
From page 4

She excitedly talked about her love of taking pictures and developing them herself.

"I feel two separate types of emotion," Barrett said. "When photographing I feel a challenge and I enter my own little world. My camera is an extension of myself. When I'm in the darkroom, I feel anxiousness, a sense of discovery. The magic of the image appearing on the paper."

Others in class, like Claire Benjamin and Colleen Pruss, were photographers before they even took the class.

"I started when I was about 10 taking pictures with a manual and have been in a darkroom for years," said Pruss, who has a knack for making pictures appear lifelike. "I like the ability to manipulate and change something. Also, the fact that you can make something out of nothing, it's magic. I love it, It makes me feel as though I'm in control of everything," said Pruss.

But it's not all magic.

Benjamin explained that sometimes old-school photography can be very frustrating.

It's a challenge. I've had really bad luck with my camera and photos, but things are looking up now. I like it and I'm excited," she said.

Each student artist couldn't say enough about the "magic" they all felt while developing film, and many expressed sadness at the advent of the digital age.

"Digital has its place, yet I feel as though the regular darkroom and chemicals should stay. You don't get the same feeling printing out a picture as you do watching it come to life in the developer," Pruss said.

Dickinson agreed.

"I hate digital. Digital is too perfect, where you can delete the bad pictures. But that's what photography is all about, capturing the moment," she said. "Old photography is fun. You never know what you will develop."

The students say they realize technology isn't going away, but they hope neither will the ability to print pictures the old-fashioned way.

"Technology is necessary. Digital provides affordable means for the average Joe to make a family portrait," said McAdams, the class instructor. "But once I can't use film and paper, I'm done."

Having fun at the Rutland county fair

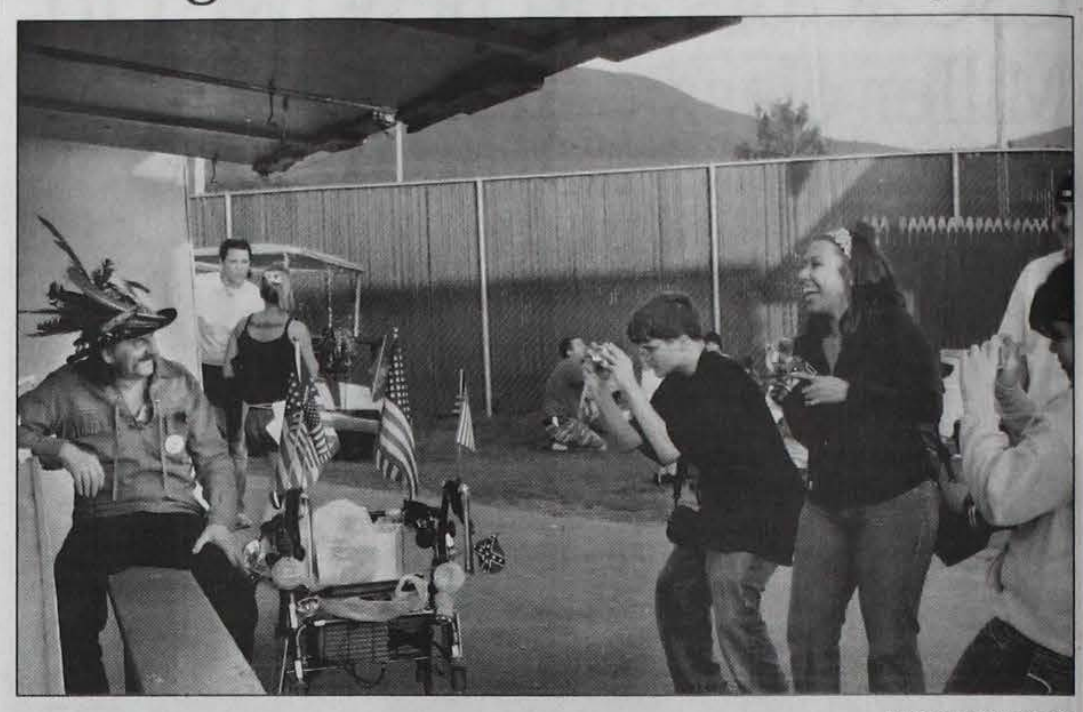


PHOTO BY JOESEPH NARDONE

Castleton State College Photojournalism students attend a workshop at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland. The class is taught by Adjunct Professor Vyto Starinskas, students experienced approaching subjects, gaining their confidence and photographing them for a "portrait" assignment for the class.

New seats, new feel in FAC

PHOTO BY KENNETH TYLER

The new seats in the Fine Arts Center.

By Kenneth Tyler
Spartan Editor

Not only a comfortable renovation, but a complete overhaul of the theater in the Fine Arts Center was made over the summer at a cost of just under $1 million.

At first inspection of the newly re-dedicated John and Susan Casella Theater in the Fine Arts Center, one might think that the just the seats had been swapped out, but a closer look reveals a long list of improvements.

On Saturday Sept. 9, the newly remodeled FAC was officially unveiled to a crowded theater where John and Susan Casella were the honored guests after their donation of $500,000 last year helped make the renovation possible.

The evening featured student performers, the Castleton Jazz Ensemble and fireworks to close out the night, and while the new seats, paint and dedication signs were the most visible of the renovations, they were only a small part of the year-long project.

"It was a wonderful event," Mariko Hancock, director of cultural programming, said. "A real class act."

As you first walk into the Fine Arts Center the first noticeable enhancement is on the front patio, which has been completely remade to include new plants, sidewalk lighting and a new sidewalk located along the new brick wall of the patio. Next, as you walk into the building, the gallery has been repainted and the ceiling has been rebuilt to include new track lighting.

"I am very pleased," Bill Allen, dean of admissions, said. "I've heard good things about the acoustics and I am very pleased with how the patio looks."

Inside the theater, the stage has been rebuilt including electrical replacements, a rebuilt catwalk in the ceiling and arriving soon will be acoustical panels to be placed on the back wall to enhance the sound quality.

Most notable once inside the theater, however, are the 484 new seats lining the floors. The Castleton green seats have spots on the armrest that will feature names of individuals who buy an engraved plaque for a donation of $250. So far 177 of the plaques have been sold generating $44,250 of the possible $120,000.

"They are thicker cushioned and sit at a more relaxed position," sophomore Dana Buscio said.

Downstairs in the FAC, the dance floor was replaced and the women's room was enlarged.

Still to come in the overhaul project will be an expansion of the box office window to accommodate larger crowds as well as new carpeting in the gallery, which is scheduled to be renovated over the October break.

Convocation marked by promise, sadness

By Kenneth Tyler
Spartan Editor

Students and faculty were officially welcomed back Aug. 31 as President Wolk and a handful of guest speakers addressed a capacity crowd in the newly renovated Fine Arts Center for the annual convocation address.

"This is our first full house at our first community gathering in this beautifully renovated theater," Wolk said to acknowledge the hard work done in the theater over the summer.

Moments later the tone shifted as the nearly 500 people in attendance observed a moment of silence for Kurt Dechen, the former Castleton student who died last month while serving on active duty in Iraq.

After the momentary silence, Steven Vail, the newly elected Student Association president, laid out some of his goals this year. Topping Vail's priority list is reducing the current S.A. budget surplus, which as of the end of last year stood at just over $60,000. Vail said he believes decreasing the surplus by spending more on events around campus will create a better experience for all Castleton students.

After the new hire introductions Wolk presented the awards of commuter and employee of the semester to Tasha Turner and Jane Foley respectively. President Wolk then gave his annual commencement address.

"There certainly weren't any bombshells dropped this year," Professor Andy Alexander said referring to last year's news of a $500,000 donation from Alumni John and Susan Casella to improve the Fine Arts Center, among other things.

Instead, this year's focus was how that money, along with a $2 million federal grant, will be spent to improve Castleton.

Along with the money already generated, the college has taken on an aggressive campaign drive to help finance the ongoing improvements around campus. Most notable is the "Take a Seat" campaign which enables individuals to have their name or name of a loved one engraved on a plaque to be permanently placed on an armrest of one of the new seats in the theater.

Wolk also addressed one of this year's hot topics, the growing interest in Castleton as a school of choice.

"The fall semester of 2005 opened with record enrollment in all categories," Wolk said as he praised the efforts of the Admissions office and the students. "Due to your efforts Castleton has become a very hot college, but we needed to control our enrollment growth."

Wolk then stated that last spring for the first time in the historic college's history, officials stopped accepting applications from first-year students. Only a small number of transfer applications in high academic standing were considered and only on the understanding that there would not be on-campus housing available.

Senior Anthony Marc Scott notices the difference in the size of enrollment from just a few years ago, but doesn't think it has been too drastic.

"A little bigger is not bad, as long as it doesn't grow too big," Scott said. "It's good for the local businesses, but the college is in the business to make money as well, so you never know."

Also addressed in the commencement was Castleton's "Green campus initiative" and the announcement that with three hybrid vehicles already purchased last year the college plans on adding more hybrid vehicles until the entire fleet is complete.

"This year we will research and begin composting from our dining hall, continue our community vegetable garden, and experiment further with biodiesel," Wolk said.

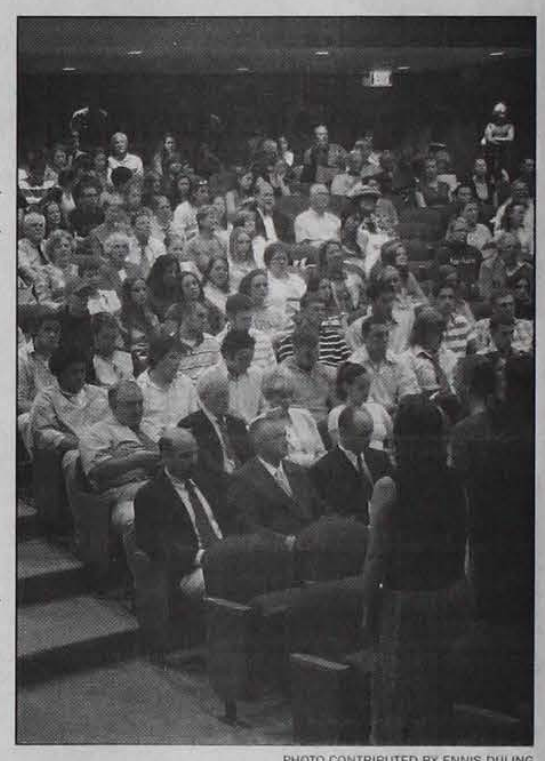


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ENNIS DULING

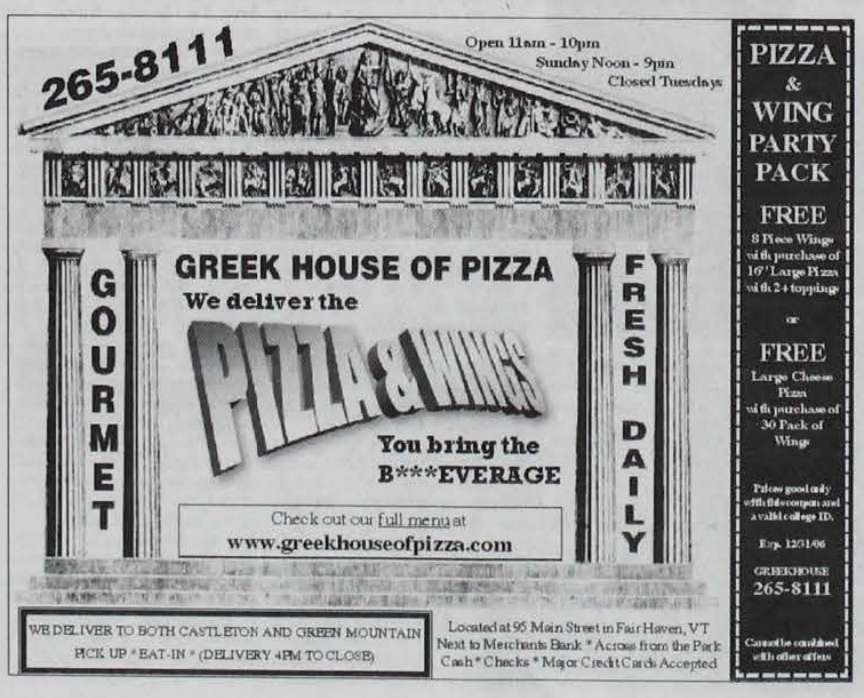
The Castleton Collegiate Chorale performs at convocation, Aug. 31.

"The college recycled over twenty tons of materials, saved over $10,000 in disposal costs, experienced a discernible reduction in litter on campus and enhanced our collective consciousness about taking care of the planet," he said.

In the last portion of the commencement address, Wolk outlined the upcoming renovations to campus including the 127-seat lecture hall in Jeffords Center for Science and Mathematics, four research laboratories, an instructional lab and a new greenhouse. Also planned are major renovations in the south wing of the science center, paving the South Street lot and new lighting and sidewalks leading to the Jeffords Center.

More possible renovations may include air-conditioning in Leavenworth Hall and Stafford Academic Center, a new television studio, an enlargement and renovation of the Campus Center and improvement to the many athletic fields and equipment.

"This is indeed an exciting time to be at Castleton ...," Wolk said. "We intend to continue, expand, improve, and build on the successes of recent years."



Partying on campus

KEGS
From page 4

semi-formals, winter weekends with 30 kegs, and Greek life that was active on campus.

"I can't talk about that," said White, smiling and laughing as he reminisced about the parties Albro spoke of.

The drinking age changed in the mid '80s and the school had no choice but to end the keg-based events on campus. But what about the students? Were they so different from you and me?

A 1975 yearbook article said, "one of the students' major complaints was the Dining Hall. Not only the food, but also the employees. Some things never change!"

"People complained about food and parking then, the same things they complain about now," Angis said.

According to old Spartan newspapers, students had a 10% discount card that they could use at The College Diner, now known as Birds Eye, or at the Blue Cat, a long-gone bar that was in the back of the village store.

But Lyn Adams, a financial aid counselor who has worked at the school for nearly two decades, said she does notice differences between students of two decades ago and those on campus today - positive difference.

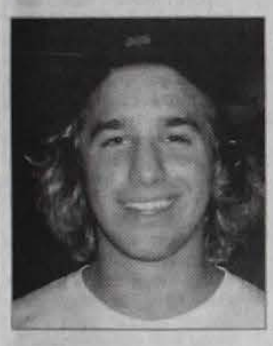
"More people are here to learn and get their degrees than in the '70s," Adams said. "But President Wolk's description of the small college with a big heart is true - and it's always been that way."

There's more to The Spartan online!
www.castletonspartan.com

Q- What was your biggest fear coming to Castleton?

Jess Sargent-Nelson
"That I wouldn't keep in touch with my friends from high school."

Geoffrey Walker
"That college isn't for me"



Erikson Asker
"Thinking that I wasn't going to put enough effort into my school work."

Jeremiah Haggerty
"That my roommate wasn't going to be compatible with me."

Tom Conzo
"I had no fear coming to Castleton, because of my outgoing personality."

Nice To Meet You, Jody

By Jazmin Averbuck
Spartan Staff

Name: Jody Bergedick
Childhood Nickname: Squirt
Birthday: December 15, 1958
Born in: Fayetteville, Arkansas
Current residence: Middlebury, Vermont
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Season: "Summer, I hate to be cold"
Current Job title: Assistant Professor of Communications
Most Influential Job: editing a PBS program called "Three Two One Contact"

I heard that you worked on the PBS program, "Sesame Street." What role did you play in that production? Editing.

What was your favorite character on Sesame Street? Grover.

Who do you think would win in a fight between Cookie Monster and Snuffleupagus? Cookie Monster because of his temperament, Snuffy is too gentle.

What other shows have you worked on? Sesame Street, Three, Two, One Contact, Shalom Sesame (Israeli History show using characters from sesame street), worked on the pilots for a PBS math show, and put together corporate videos (presentations for stockholders.)

Who is your personal hero? Mary Tyler Moore, her show in the 70's influenced my choice of careers.

When you met her, was she like what you expected? Yes, she was very happy.

And lastly, what is your most influential quote? "Do unto others as you would have them do on to you."

PHOTO BY JESSICA KROLL
Jody Bergedick joins the Castleton staff after working on "Sesame Street."

Alternative transportation

PHOTO BY KENNETH TYLER
Anna Cohen gives her friend, Meaghan Thompson, a push down the sidewalk in front of the library on Monday.

Alumni profile

Editor's Note: Dick Grace is a 1969 graduate presently teaching American history, American government and natural history at Stafford High School in Connecticut. He is married and has one son.

When I entered Castleton State College in 1965, I entered with the idea that I would be a history teacher on the high school level. Dr. Bill Jordan taught my first history class and he helped me hold onto my dream. The course was a survey course on American history and we covered a huge amount of territory in a very short time.

Jordan quickly established the ground rules, set out what is required to succeed in the course and then reassured students that if they fulfill the requirements, they will learn and succeed in the course. This is what I presently do with my history students, and I tell them that I learned this technique.

My parents were quite pleased with my choice of colleges as they both attended Castleton and married soon after they graduated.

I grew up in Northampton, Mass., so when I came to Castleton I did not know anyone. I was assigned to a housing unit next to the Catholic church on Main Street. There were about 20 freshmen and a housemother. The dorm established a bond between us. When Castleton closed our house, we moved into the regular dorms. We missed the feeling of our small group, so some of the house members and a few invited friends established Tau chapter of Kappa Delta Phi fraternity.

Politics also interested me, and while at Castleton I became more and more active in student government ... as a member of the student senate, chief justice of the student council and finally class president of the class of 1969.

I was also a member of the golf team with Dick terry as coach. We had a good team which defeated teams like Middlebury and UVM in the New England Championships.

As a student at Castleton, you can establish close relationships with your professors. Dr. Warren Cook was an amazing teacher and host. He brought many of his advanced classes to his home to learn first-hand from his extensive South American pottery collection. Jordan opened his home many times ... for lively historical discussions while playing bridge.

Castleton is a place where I came as an unsure adolescent and left a very self-assured young man. I can remember clearly the stunned look on m y mother's face when she read the graduation program and noticed I was going to be one of the keynote speakers, as class president.

The speech went fine and my parents were thrilled, probably helped by Castleton's public speaking class.

As a high school teacher, I encourage my students to apply to Castleton and this year Stafford is sending two incoming freshmen. I can still visualize that first day and last day I spent as a student at Castleton..

Both those days were ones that brought great happiness to my life.

CSC Collegiate Chorale has fun at Carnegie Hall

By Mike Trzciensky
Spartan Staff

As we got off the bus and started to walk towards the private warm up area, it hit the members of the Castleton Collegiate Choral that they were about to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Performing at New York's Carnegie Hall is an opportunity that few ever get to experience.

The chorus arrived in New York City on Friday May 19, staying at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, located next door to Grand Central Station.

On the first night, we were free to do as we pleased. Saturday and Sunday were filled with rehearsals.

We were one of several groups of college and high school students from across the country to perform Gabriele Faure's Requiem.

The director for our group would be Dr. Dennis Cox, the director of choral activities at the University of Maine.

The rehearsals had been intense, but they would prove to be well worth it when we made our way onto the stage for the dress rehearsal.

The dress rehearsal was quick and professional. We sang our song and got off the stage. The orchestra was also as ultra professional as would be expected from union musicians.

One musician who was seated directly in font of my position in the front row particularly interested me.

He only had a few bars of music to play towards the middle of the piece. So during the parts he was not being used, he sat there reading a hockey article. He did this both during the dress rehearsal and the actual performance!

One thing that immediately struck me was how the sound carried throughout the hall. It was like nothing I had ever heard before. Any coughs or whispers could easily carry to the back of the hall.

"I stood on the stage and just said wow. I couldn't believe that I was standing on a stage that had housed so many legends and great performers before me. It was simply awe inspiring," said tenor Michael Stevens.

After the dress rehearsal, we had some free time before the performance, where we were the second of the three groups to go on.

The performance went off without a hitch. In fact, we may have saved our best run-through of the piece for the big moment.

"I was impressed with the behavior and professionalism of our choir. We really did our college proud," said Castleton accompanist and professor Sarah McQuarrie, who also sang as part of the choir, along with fellow CSC professors Ronald Sherwin and Jason Anderson.

After the concert, we went on a dinner cruise past the statue of liberty and then would depart the next day.

Castleton choral director Ronald Sherwin said that he was very pleased with how the trip turned out.

"Anytime you can get your singers invited to perform on a world-class stage with internationally known soloists and orchestras it can't help but benefit your program," said Sherwin. "It changes your singers' lives, and when high schools learn you were invited to Carnegie Hall, it makes their students want to study at your college."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE TRZCIENSKY
CSC chorus poses in front of Carnegie Hall over the summer.

Women's soccer team young, but starting strong

By Shoichiro Watanabe
Spartan Staff

The Castleton State College women's soccer team is off to a 1-1-1 start this season with strong performances on the road against Norwich and Johnson State sandwiched by a loss in the homer opener against Plattsburgh State.

After tying Norwich 1-1 in the season opener, the Spartans had a tougher time in the home opener.

They layed hard against one of the best teams in the league, making it a seesaw game until the beginning of the second half.

The much-anticipated home opener began under the cloudy sky of Castleton's Alumni field. Plattsburgh took control of the ball early on in the contest, forcing Castleton to play tough defense to prevent the opposition's massive attack.

In the 17th minute, Plattsburgh State's co-captain Teresa Barber scored a goal to put her team on the board 1-0. The Spartans answered back after 10 minutes with a beautiful loop shoot by freshman Sarah Reaber-Spina over the goalkeeper.

The first half ended with both teams tied at one goal each.

But just five minutes into the second half, Plattsburgh's Barber scored once again from a throw-in that was misplayed by the Spartans.

Down 2-1, however, Castleton wasn't ready to throw in the towel. The Spartans got an indirect free-kick right outside of the box three minutes after Plattsburgh's goal.

Junior Stephanie Reuter took the kick and pinpointed it onto Tracy Stala's head, and Tracy sharply headed the ball to the upper left corner of the goal.

While Castleton kept hustling and playing hard, Plattsburgh State seemed to pick up the pace as Barber scored another goal just two minutes after the Spartan tally.

Castleton goalkeeper Kim Allen made many great saves to prevent more goals from the opposition.

With seven minutes left in the game, Plattsburgh took a shot off a misplay from the Castleton defense.

It shook the back of the net and gave Plattsburgh a 4-2 lead and some comfort.

"Plattsburgh is a better team than us and they usually kill us by a lot more goals than this game, so coming in the second half with a tie is like a win to them," head coach Chris Chadelaine said after the loss. "Our team has five starting freshman; all of the starting defenders are freshmen and we have one transfer student. I expect many mistakes since we are a young team, but there are many possibilities to make our team better."

PHOTO BY BETH PANTZER

Tracy Stala tries to steal the ball from Plattsburgh's Kyra Crosby during the Spartan's home opener on Sept. 3. Castleton lost 4-2.

Dawson talking sports

By Dawson Raspuzzi
Spartan Staff

The Boston Red Sox are back.

Back in a corner with their tails between their legs.

Back 10 games behind the Yankees in the American League East.

Back six games behind the Twins and White Sox for the wild card.

And the most miserable part of it all is that the player's (and people in the front office's) hearts are already back in their off-season homes, while all of us diehard fans get sick watching it unravel.

I've gotten used to the Red Sox loosing. I've known that 2004 wouldn't become an annual occurrence, and I've accepted that.

What I can't accept is how they have given up.

Sure, injuries are a big part of what knocked Boson out of first place and back six games in the wild card.

However, it is the lack of determination that is keeping them out of the playoff hunt.

Six games out of the wild card race the Red Sox traded the big-game veteran David Wells to San Diego for average catching prospect George Kottaras.

Replacing Wells and his 229 career wins in Boston's rotation has been consistently inconsistent relief pitcher turned starter, Julian Tavarez, who is 2-4 this year with a 4.72 ERA.

This trade was done because Wells plans to retire at the end of the season and the organization saw an opportunity to get something in return for him by sending him to a playoff contender.

With 28 games still remaining at that point, and Boston still having three games to play against both the Twins and White Sox, how were they not still a contender?

The Twins and White Sox also have to play three games against each other, along with games against the AL Central leading Detroit Tigers, and AL West leading Oakland Athletics.

With both the Twins and White Sox having difficult schedules remaining, Boston was in no spot to give up one of the few proven starters that they had.

Trading Wells was the front office's decision. Players getting extra days off, Manny Ramirez's sore knee in particular, is a lack of caring.

If a player is risking serious injury by playing, then I'm not saying he should be thrown out there.

But if the Red Sox had been one game back instead of six, we would have seen Manny's bat in the lineup and not have heard a thing about his knee.

Players aren't even running out ground balls anymore, which is just as much the manager, Terry Francona's, fault as anyone else's.

Francona, along with the rest of the organization, seems to have forgotten that six games have been gained on teams with less than 28 games remaining.

In Little League, children learn to never give up until the last out is made.

I don't know when many of the Red Sox forgot what they learned in Little League, but after the lack of effort that I've watched in the past two weeks, I'm starting to miss the Little League World Series already.

At this point I would much rather watch children play the game like the pros should, instead of watching the pros play like children wouldn't dare.

The distance is done, they're not

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MAGGIE KLEIN

Jacey Klein and Serena Gallagher pose with their medals after finishing the Burlington Marathon.

By Janet Perron
Spartan Staff

Feet rhythmically drumming on the pavement, breathing at a steady pace. Sweat trickling down like raindrops on a window. Exhaustion creeps nearer as each agonizing but rewarding step brings the finish closer and closer.

Side-by-side Serena Gallagher and John "Jacey" Klein V crossed the finish line of the Burlington Marathon on May 28, 2006. Just like their months of training leading up to it, the running duo moved toward their goal, placing each step down together in triumphant stride.

"We did very well for our first marathon," a smiling Gallagher said of their 4:26:08 overall time for the 26.2 mile run. "The best feeling ever was crossing that finish line and knowing I accomplished something major."

During the 13 weeks of training, the time goal of four hours that they had discussed seemed to becoming a little more out of reach in Jacey's eyes and he became pessimistic about the goal. Although happy with their time Klein said, "It was not quite as good as we could have done. We could definitely break four hours."

Both runners agreed that next time they will train longer and harder. And yes there will be a next time.

"If you asked me right after I would have probably said no," Klein said when asked if he will ever run another marathon. Serena, however, never had a doubt.

"Heck yeah," she said, like it were the craziest question in the world to ask.

The Castleton Cross-Country Team coach, John Klein – Jacey's father -- said many marathon runners take several weeks off from running following a marathon. Serena and Jacey were back on the road hearing their feet against the terrain only a few days after.

"Time wise I thought that they did great," Klein said, adding that hip pain Gallagher suffered during training made her cut some training runs short. "They ran a smart race."

The hip pain did not prevent Gallagher from continuing her training, however, and she never stopped running during the marathon.

"My entire body was screaming in pain, but you almost forget the pain while running," she said.

The pain was buffered some by the energy both were able to gain from the cheering crowds lining the streets.

"The level of excitement was much higher, people everywhere …" Jacey Klein said, describing the feeling of standing on the start line with adrenaline pumping.

"All the people around gave off positive energy by cheering," Gallagher said, with her marathon race number tacked to her wall next to a photograph of her and two friends on race day.

"My family and friends were there cheering me on," she said. "It was more than I expected, so many people, it was so much fun."

Klein also said having family and friends present helped keep him stay motivated, but there was someone else who helped too.

"Serena kept me motivated … I don't think I would have done as well without Serena," he said, adding that when he stopped to walk at watering stations, she kept running.

Proud of her accomplishment Gallagher said, "I now call myself a marathon runner. It's so cool."

"I couldn't stop smiling once they put that medal around my neck," Klein said proudly. "I

FH team off to slow start

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

After a loss in last year's conference semifinals, the Castleton field hockey team returned with six new players this season hoping for a conference finals appearance.

But the early season schedule has proved a little difficult.

Despite NAC coach of the year Tammy Landon returning for her third year as the head coach, the team has gone 1-3

Picked fourth in the NAC pre-season poll, the Spartans' season began on the road against Eastern Connecticut State. The game was scoreless until 1:10 remaining in the first half when sophomore Trishia Fellows' goal gave the Spartans the lead.

Castleton continued to attack the Eastern Connecticut defense in the second half, tacking on another goal thanks to senior captain Carrie Black's score. Castleton came out victorious 2-0 to start off the season with a bang.

The next three games did not go the way the Spartans would have liked them to.

Against Juniata College, the Spartans were dominated from start to finish and took a tough 5-0 loss. Goalie Trisha Clark stopped fifteen shots in a losing effort for Castleton.

The home opener matched the team up against Plymouth State in what turned out to be an exciting contest. Plymouth State got on the board only 23 seconds into the contest when Melanie Bates scored. The Spartans answered back with a goal by Carolyn Griggs, tying things up at one goal a piece.

Both Bates and Griggs then scored again for their respective teams and the score was tied 2-2 early in the second half. Unfortunately for the Spartans, the opposition would score three times in a five-minute span, including the third goal of the day for Bates.

Castleton would put another goal in the net, but the final score ended up 6-3 in favor of Plymouth.

The final game of the week was another home game, this time against the Ramapo Roadrunners. Castleton had trouble getting shots through Ramapo's goalkeeper Jenna Fenninello, who had a shutout going until Carolyn Griggs scored with 15 minutes to play in the game.

Ramapo scored three times, with two coming from Devin Flynn, leading to the Spartans third straight loss and dropping their record to 1-3.

Men's coach impressed

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

The Castleton men's soccer team had their hopes of an NCAA bid crushed last year, exiting the conference tournament after a heartbreaking one-goal loss to Lasell College.

One year and eight impact newcomers later, the Spartans are determined to again contend for the NAC title this season. Third-year head coach Paul Werner has put together a well-balanced Castleton squad, which was picked for second place in the conference's pre-season poll.

The Spartans opened up the new season away from home against Green Mountain College. In the first minute of play, a Castleton turnover led to a quick Green Mountain goal.

With both the fans and the score against them, the Spartans pulled through and tied the game up when sophomore Ryan Hahn scored off a rebound.

Castleton seemed to then get into its comfort zone and put three more in the net. Goals from senior captain Kurt Hunt, sophomore Matt Buhrke and a second from Hahn propelled the Spartans to a 4-2 win over their rival from Poultney.

After starting the season with a win, the Spartans played host to Norwich College in its home opener. Both teams had opportunities to score early on, but couldn't get anything past the goalkeepers. Castleton's best chance to score in the first half came when Tyler Butterick's breakaway shot was stopped by Norwich's Jared Pagragan.

In the second half, Castleton had another chance at scoring when Kurt Hunt's 18-yard strike was punched away from the net by Pagragan. With both teams aggressively looking to get on the scoreboard, the game started getting out of control with dirty playing. With five minutes left in the half, Norwich forward Rob Harlow tripped up freshman defender Nick Thomson to earn a yellow card.

The two teams kept their cool for the final minutes of the second half, but the score was still knotted at 0-0 going into sudden death overtime. A foul on Castleton goalie Ben Colona while a Norwich player was in the box resulted in a penalty kick for Norwich's Drew Dilley.

With the game on the line, Dilley kicked it past Colona and into the net for a Norwich win.

"I felt like we wasted time in the first half lofting balls, but we came out strong in the second half and generated quality shots," Werner said. "It was definitely an even match and one team's break made the difference."

The men's team, after splitting the first two games of the season, had a very tough home game against St. Michael's College. Castleton trailed 2-0 late in the second half before freshman forward Chris Hoagland scored off an indirect kick from fellow freshman Corey Robbins in the 86th minute.

Castleton tried desperately to tie things up, but St.Michael's held on for the 2-1 victory.

Castleton fell to a record of 1-2 with the loss, but Werner is pleased with the way his team has played. "We're playing a skillful brand of soccer," Werner said. "While we might be out-muscled at times, we hold our own and will be a very good team at year's end."

Halnon leads cross-country team in N.H.

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

The Spartans cross country team opened up the year on Sept. 2 at the Pilgrim Pride Invitational in Henniker, N.H.

Led by first-year head coach Blair Marelli, the Castleton women led off with a strong outing, finishing in second place out of the six teams participating in the race.

Freshman Elizabeth Halnon had the lone top 10 finish for the Spartans, ending the race impressively in eighth place. Katie Sprowl and Justine Campbell finished in eleventh and fifteenth place respectively.

The men's team raced against seven other teams from the New England region. They did not fair as well as the women, finishing in seventh place. But the Spartans were separated from the fourth place squad by only eight points. Freshman Michael Sullivan finished the race in 10th place, followed by fellow freshman Jeffrey Paul, who finished 23rd.

The cross country team will travel to New York City this weekend for the NYU Invitational.

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THE SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, September 27, 2006

Sexual Assault Reported

By Kenneth Tyler
Spartan Editor

Castleton police are investigating an alleged sexual assault that is said to have taken place in the early hours of Sept. 8 in the southeast section of the parking lot on South Street.

The crime log kept by the Castleton State College Public Safety Department states that its office was notified of the incident at 3:15 a.m., about 15 minutes after it occurred.

Castleton Police Chief Bruce Sherwin wouldn't comment on specific details of the case because the investigation is ongoing, but he did say that any arrest, if warranted, will take some time.

"The lab results could take up to three to four weeks to get back," Sherwin said. "Interviews and statements are also a part of the investigation."

According to Public Safety Director Bob Godlewski, the incident started at an off campus party before ending up in the parking lot commonly referred to as "Africa".

Word of the alleged sexual assault has spread across campus and spawned rumors that there have been additional sexual assault incidents. School officials, however, are denying that any other incidents have occurred.

"This alleged incident is the first of its kind since last year," said Dean of Students, Greg Stone. "There is no rash of sexual assaults going on."

Stone also attempted to allay students' fears by saying that this is an isolated incident and that they need not fear that a sexual predator is on the loose.

"We're investigating an incident between two people," Stone said. "The parking lot didn't cause this incident ... it didn't occur as an act of someone coming out of the bushes."

The gravel parking lot sits directly off South Street about a quarter mile south of the public safety building. The lot, which is about the size of a football field, was without adequate lighting until last week.

Friday, a portable light unit was brought in to help illuminate the dark area, but it's just a temporary fix until the lot is renovated next spring with pavement, parking lines and permanent lighting.

According to Stone, the temporary light has been in the plans since last year but was delayed because the school needed the town to sign off on the paperwork.

A guard shack will also be placed at the entrance to the parking lot and will be manned by officers, but that too has been in the plans prior to the incident, Godlewski said.

However, the new lights have done little to help settle the nerves of Castleton students like freshman Danielle Knapp, who is forced to use the parking lot late at night.

Knapp said she hates parking in the South Street lot and avoids it at all costs.

"I have the guys park my car for me down there when it's dark out," Knapp said. "I don't feel safe enough at night."

Mt Zion: *A reflection of paradise*

By Jacqueline Borelli
Spartan Staff

PHOTO BY JESSICA KROLL

The Japanese rock garden on Mount Zion in Hubbardton.

Driving up the mountain after being greeted by all the cows there rests a small, simple home with just enough windows to let the perfect amount of light in and the greatest view of Vermont this side of Birdseye.

It's a place where Kit and Mickie (Margaret) Davidson reside, where they work and enjoy this great gift and reflect on their hard work.

"I am originally from Greenwich Village in New York City and was a film producer while Mickie wrote children's books," said Kit, 82, as he inhaled a big breathe of Vermont air.

Kit said he was always looking for land outside the city, searching in New York, Pennsylvania, and even New Hampshire before settling in Vermont.

He purchased the land on Mount Zion in 1969 and up until 2002 split his time living in Vermont and New York.

Kit explained that once he became a medical editor, he was able to work from home. At that point he became a full time Vermont resident -- just what he wanted.

Mount Zion is located near Hubbardton Battlefield and offers five miles of trails weaving in and out of nature's treasures. The site includes a Japanese rock garden, trails, and countless spots to sit down and reflect on life.

Natalie Brassill, a senior at Castleton and frequent Zion hiker, smiles when pondering her experiences at the mountain.

"One of my first times at Zion, I woke up at 6 a.m. to hike and watch the battlefield re-enactment," Brassill said.

She spoke about how the mountain offers beautiful scenery and a real place to become one with the nature. She talks about how lucky she was to be shown the area and how she now takes time out of her busy day to show new people this hidden treasure.

"There is a lot of hard work put into the mountain. It's clean, no trash barrels, everyone is really respecting," she said

Labor of love

After you park your car and grab a map, many head down the hill and cross the freshly painted wooden bridge. There you are greeted by Kit's rock garden filled with statues, chairs, and a waterfall that will remove any stress you may have.

You can climb up the ladder and rest on a boulder or sit by the pond and watch the frogs while soaking up sun rays.

Kit's inspiration for the rock garden came from his love of

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Keep the free oil flowing . . . vegetable oil that is

Students continue Setchfield dream of powering campus with recycled Huden oil

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Vegetable oil spewed from tubes connecting the vat with the reactor, spraying the chemists in the process of making fuel and leaving them dripping with oil.

No, this wasn't a scene from Dirty Jobs, but students Seth Frank and Todd Byrne making biodeisel fuel, recalled Frank laughing.

This summer former student Kristopher Setchfield and three other students set up a reactor that will hasten the process of turning vegetable oil into fuel. Throughout the summer they have been testing and re-testing to get the biodiesel fuel into a usable form.

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

Seth Frank explains how the biodiesel converter to his left works

So far, one "successful" batch has been made, said Frank.

The biodiesel fuel will be used in college lawn mowers and other diesel vehicles on campus once the club is able to start making batches regularly.

"Now that the dining hall is back up, we should have a good supply," Dean of Administration Bill Allen said.

Sustaining the Sustainable Energy Club

To continue the biodiesel production, Setchfield and Frank are creating a Sustainable Energy Club through the help of Natalie Brassill, president of the Science Association. The first meeting will be held on Oct. 3, after Setchfield returns from his around-the-country trip on biodiesel fuel.

"We started a club to get students involved," Frank said. "We are all in agreement to help college in any way we can to save the college a couple of bucks and to make emissions cleaner."

The club hopes to not only be making a 40-gallon batch of biodiesel fuel every three days if all goes well, but to also team up with the Outdoor Club exchanging seeds used for oil with glycerol, which would work as a composite in the Outdoor Club's garden, said Frank.

"It's a huge circle," Brassill said.

Why not make our own?

The University of New Hampshire is buying biodiesel to power campus vehicles and Middlebury College is buying B20 which is 20% biodiesel and 80% diesel.

At Castleton State College, however, these students are making their own fuel from the oil left over from Huden Dining Hall to provide for the college. Currently biodiesel costs a couple cents more than diesel fuel, unless you make your own.

While Middlebury helped raise awareness in their community by buying biodiesel, they have been set back to buying biodiesel after a student run project called Project Biobus, where students experimented using 100% biodiesel, ceased.

Although it costs more to buy biodiesel fuel, using the blended fuel will help allow Middlebury to reach its "commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 8% below 1990," said Jack Byrne, Middlebury's campus sustainability coordinator.

Both these schools started dabbling in biodiesel fuel because of student driven organizations that ceased when those involved graduated.

"I think it will be so immersed in the culture, especially after three or four years that the cultural expectation will be one of environmental awareness," Castleton President David Wolk said.

Green, greener, greenest

With all the biodiesel options, it is hard to decide which one is best environmentally. Instead, organizations and groups generally pick the biodiesel option that best suits their needs.

While some would like to see all vehicles run on

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FAC EVENTS

September 28
Vermont Symphony Orchestra
7:30 p.m.

October 3
Manhatten Piano Trio
7:30 p.m.

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COMING NEXT ISSUE

Sociology Professor Bill Kuehn and his students investigate who is littering what and why along Lake Champlain.

Skaters leave their mark on new bench in front of Fine Art's Center.

Re-evaluating our American historical heroes

By Max Heiber
U-Wire

(U-WIRE) STORRS, Conn. -- American mythology is littered with far more than its fair share of bad heroes. Woodrow Wilson was a total jerk, Thomas Jefferson was a hypocritical slave-owner, Ben Franklin went to bed early and so on. George Washington, an abysmal military strategist, by the way, is lauded for having the guts to fess up to chopping down a tree. What could possibly make a worse case for heroism? I'll tell you. Someone who is single-handedly responsible for some of the worst environmental crimes in America's history. An ecological serial killer, a deranged, misguided vigilante. Someone who not only killed loads of cherry trees, but didn't even have the guts to fess up to it.

That's right, I'm talking about one of the greatest villains of all time, Johnny Appleseed. Johnny Appleseed was an eco-terrorist. Apple trees are an invasive species. When you go around spreading apple seeds all over the place, willy-nilly, with no regard for nature's balance, the apples take over, wiping out weaker species and making entire forests dull and same-looking. However much you may like apples and apple trees, they wreak havoc on our biodiversity. For shame! In Mother Nature's eyes, apple trees are weeds. Poison weeds!

I'm making no idle point here. This is not for fun. This is serious. When I was enjoying grades kindergarten through third grade, I learned about Johnny Appleseed over and over. Let's ignore for a moment the thousands of better things I could have been learning about and focus instead on the direct damage caused by that particular story.

Are our children supposed to grow up to think nature is theirs to mess with and shape as they please, with no regard for nature's careful balances? Are our children supposed to look up to this Johnny "Osama bin-Apple seed" eco-terrorist? Is that what we want?

I see two possible paths for the children of our great country. As a society, we can raise children who want to grow up to be doctors, lawyers, sanitation workers, receptionists, psychologists, psychopaths and Chef Boyardees (all noble professions). Or we can raise an entire generation of people who want to graduate college, then start off on a long hiking trip with nothing but the shirts on their backs and a burlap sack full of the seeds of invasive species.

Should we really fill them up with insane pipe dreams, letting them think the path to fame, fortune success and the like is paved with apple seeds? Or do we want them working hard and flossing properly?

I guess we need some sort of historical pantheon, a large group of important figures for us to mythologize and look up to. So if Johnny Appleseed goes, we should probably replace him.

Lucky for us, the ideal replacement historical figure is within our grasp, assuming our fingers are big enough. Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy's Restaurants, is clearly the man for the job. First of all, he's dead, as all good heroes should be. But his heroic corpse is still warm, so to speak, making him "hip" and "fresh" like fast food, but not edible like fast food. His hipness stands in direct contrast to Johnny Boringseed's lack of hipness. Osama bin-Boringseed, though he still stood a dangerous chance of making kids think terrorism was cool, was definitely old hat. Everyone knows you can't "hike" America anymore, you'd get beaten up, arrested or both.

Secondly, it's fair to replace Johnny "I suck" Appleseed with Thomas, because they both did somewhat similar things. Both spread edible product throughout America with beaming smiles on their faces. That makes it an apples-to-apples comparison. Appleseed with a diabolical eco-terrorist grin and Thomas with the kindly grin of an old family man who just plain likes people. You can just tell by that smile, Dave Thomas was true blue, a real nice guy. While Johnny Appleseed modeled the world in his vision, imposing his favorite food on everyone, Thomas made burgers in the name of his lovely red-haired niece. What a cute story!

To those who say Thomas wiped out Mom and Pop stores, I say yes, we would have to consider that, if it weren't for one important detail. Thomas would be unfit for a place in the historical pantheon if the burgers were not square. But the inconvenient (for the naysayers!) truth is that the burgers ARE square, thereby serving as big meaty beacons of acceptance for squares everywhere.

Before we get carried away, we must think about whether we are being racist or not. We might be! For those worried about replacing a thin dead white guy with a portly dead white guy, we might consider instead replacing Mr. Appleseed in the historical pantheon with a live Mexican dog. How many other American heroes are Mexican? Sadly, none. That dog could serve as a role model for Latinos and those of other races alike, spreading the joys of cultural interchange. Would you know what a cholupa was before the dog? I think not! Say it with me, "Yo quiero racial equality tambien."

Here man, smoke this

By Brad Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

In what was probably the least surprising news story in the history of newsgathering, Willie Nelson, beloved country-jingle-jangler and the friendliest man ever born, was arrested early last week for drug possession.

In what Louisiana State Troopers say was a routine traffic stop, Willie and crew allowed troopers into their bus. Upon entering, Trooper Willie Williams (probably upset with that other Willie soiling his good name) smelled the strong odor of marijuana. After searching the bus, the troopers found a pound and half of marijuana and a fifth (or if you're the AP, you like it written as 2/10 of an ounce) of mushrooms.

Willie and the rest of the people on his bus were arrested and issued citations for misdemeanor possession of mushrooms and marijuana. The youngest person on the bus was 50-years-old.

The fact that Willie had that much weed isn't surprising. It's well documented that Willie enjoys a toke or two or three or four before his first joint of the day. Just the other day, Toby Keith was on the Colbert Report and was asked about his time spent with Willie. He related a story about smoking marijuana hydroponically grown in tequila. The man, botanically, is a genius.

Along with the fact that he was caught with a pound and a half of marijuana and only got cited with a misdemeanor, there's another slightly puzzling aspect to this story.

Why are the cops pulling over Willie Nelson?

What did they expect to find? He's Willie Nelson. He's not going to be drinking Shirley Temples at the bridge board while Wheel of Fortune roars oh-too-loud in the background. C'mon. Dude's going to be ripping a bong and singing some songs and watching the walls turn colors.

Not only is he 73 years old, but he's a cultural icon. I know I'm not the only one who thinks he deserves a pass on this. I know it's an illegal drug and they were probably smoking it on the bus but, geeze, its Willie Nelson.

This was almost too easy for the police. Rock-star profiling. They see a big bus, pull it over, step inside and, much to their surprise, there are drugs and groupies.

I've always hoped that the police had something better to do when things like this happen. All the gang murders, robberies, sexual assaults, and shootings; there's time out there that could be better spent.

In a world where Osama bin Laden is still avoiding capture (I would assume because no one mentions his name anymore), the U.S. is doing more to disrupt peace in the world than it's doing to encourage it, and people are looking at gas stations signs and sighing with pleasure because a gallon is only $1.00 more than it should be, no one should be arresting Willie Nelson. For anything.

I wonder if Bernie ever rips it up with Willie? They seem pretty friendly in that campaign commercial. He gets my vote.

Letters to the Editor

Welcome Back

Dear Spartan Staff:

After reading the latest Spartan, both on line and on paper, I just want to say thank you and welcome back. It is so refreshing to read a paper that is virtually absent of grammatical and typographical errors while bringing the voice and observations of individuals without agendas. The stories flow. The content is good. The price is right. The Rutland Herald could learn a lot from you. Keep up the good work!

Vickie Wendell '92

Dorms? . . . Not quite

Dear Spartan Newspaper,

I've decided to e-mail you in reflection of the article about the "new dorms." My name is Joe Zeitler, as a CA and also a Admissions Ambassador I would like to make it noted that I believe Castleton State College considers that students live im Residence Halls not "Dorms." I'd also like to thank you for providing the array of stories you have within The Spartan. Thank you for your time and hard work.

Sincerely,
Joe Zeitler

Have something to say?
Contact *The Spartan* at thespartan@castleton.edu, or call Ext. 6067.

You've got stories? We've got space

By Betsy Parks
Spartan Staff

"It is the man who determines what is said, not the words," or so said Henry David Thoreau.

And I would like to think that The Spartan is no different. Hopefully you have all noticed the improvements and changes to our student newspaper, thanks to a concerted effort by The Spartan staff.

And thanks to all of you readers, The Spartan online received more than 2,600 hits on a single day following the release of this semester's first issue. But, as the editor of that Web site, I've been thinking that maybe there's lots of stories on campus that happen 'in between' the bi-weekly Spartan publishing.

Thanks to the Web site, The Spartan has the potential to be even more interesting and interactive – and hopefully inspire a few readers to become writers. For example, we are able to publish stories instantly, so any breaking news on campus will be available as its written, so keep checking the site throughout the week.

Also, I and a few of my fellow Spartan writers will be writing some Web-only news and feature stories and columns to appear during the Spartan's off weeks.

And – (yes, there's more), our software now allows us to blog, so click on in to see some of our student-produced blogs, including a fun blog about Castleton 'after hours' and what people are doing late-night. You never know if your name will come up, right? We're also looking for a few good bloggers. Pitch us your idea and you could be the next citizen journalist.

Finally, we also want to launch a new feature of Web-exclusive essays about Castleton – written by you! We are putting out a call to anyone (students, professors, staff, faculty, alumni, etc.) with a story about Castleton to write an essay (it doesn't have to be long) that says something about your Castleton experience.

You don't have to be a writer, and there are no rules about structure or style (although we reserve the right to edit for spelling errors, profanity, etc). Anyone with a story will be considered. We will publish as many essays as we can, but we do ask that they be true and honest. E-mail any of these essays to the Web site at castletonspartan@castleton.edu.

Again, thank you all for making The Spartan and Castletonspartan.com such a success. Keep checking us out to see these new features come to life, and, as always, write us and let us know how we're doing and what you would like to read.

The Science Nook - Science Association Opinion: SI system of measuring makes more sense

By Tyler Lonczak
Spartan Contributor

Measurement is one of the most useful facets we as humans enjoy and the art of measurement is exemplified by the scientific method.

Now, like most things in this world we live, some things are better adapted to their environment than others. That is to say some things have qualities that are more useful in their environment than other qualities. In the environment of measurement, I argue, the International System of Measurement (SI system) is a more useful forms.

Scientists are not held to the SI system due to dogma or other similar methods, but to the usefulness of the SI units. In fact, if another system of measurement were to be discovered and was shown and verified to be more useful, the practitioners of science would use that system.

One such useful feature of the SI system is that it is a base 10 system much like our monetary system. For example 100 cm equal one meter and 1000 meters equal one kilometer. By using a base 10 system it is easy to scale and compare from one unit to another for example, one kilometer is 1000 times longer than one meter.

Now, the popular system we employ in the United States is based on arbitrary units which are much harder to put into perspective, for example 12 inches equals a foot, three feet equal a yard, and so forth. Furthermore, we in the United States mix our measurements, which can lead to confusion like with the destruction of the $125 million mars climate orbiter due to a wrong conversion between our traditional system and the SI system. That single error cost U.S. taxpayers a great deal of money and pride, not to mention the wasted effort to gain more knowledge about the universe in which we live.

No doubt some people will say that abandoning our current measuring system is of too great an effort to be worth it. But the person who says this is doing so out of laziness and in fact is hurting you the reasonable reader.

For example, it is hurting you because when you go to compare products, the arbitrary units used are confusing to compare from one amount to another and in this confusion mistakes are made and your money lost.

This is also hurting our education by forcing young children to go back and forth between systems. They should be trying to understand the science that is being taught, not how many bushels are in a peck. Our current way of measuring in the Untied States is keeping us ignorant and confused while SI system would allow us to make faster and more informed decisions.

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Protesting war takes a different spin

Several parallels exist between Iraq and Vietnam, but protests aren't one

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

English adjunct Professor Elizabeth Ashworth's car shows the death toll of the ongoing war.

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

When someone drives behind English adjunct professor Elizabeth Ashworth, they get a lesson on war and death.

An updated body count from the Iraq war, including soldiers from the United States and Iraqi casualties, stares straight in the face of whoever happens to be in the passenger seat. And if they move their eyes just a tad to the left, they'll be looking at a "support the troops, bring them home" sticker.

"I hope someone is sitting behind me saying, 'Woah, I didn't know that," Ashworth said. 'I hope I don't step on too many people's toes, but maybe they need it."

Nearly four decades ago, John Gillen similarly felt free to voice his opposition to the Vietnam War, when he came to teach at Castleton State College -- and he still feels the same way today during the Iraq War.

"We were free to have a voice in the newspaper," Gillen said. "There was no intimidation."

But things have changed since Gillen and other faculty and students wore black armbands at a graduation to protest the violence inflicted by the National Guard on peace demonstrators at Kent State University.

While there was nothing like the Kent State riot on Castleton grounds, there was a fair share of minor protests.

Imagine walking into Huden Dining Hall and being overcome not by the smell of hamburgers, but by 75 protesters hoping to recruit you to march with them. That happened, according to The Spartan archives. Or imagine just sitting around discussing the war with anti-war music drifting in the air around you.

"I remember people voicing their dissent, but nothing out of control," then-student and now-professor Susan Farrell said. "No activities became destructive."

THE SPARTAN ARCHIVES 1971

Times have a' changed

When the Vietnam War was raging, students at Castleton took a seat -- staging a teach-in demonstration in the ballroom in the old Leavenworth Hall.

These days, Castleton students choose to ride to Washington D.C. to protest the Iraq war, rather than protest on their own lawn.

But why so little anti-war activity – even after a Castleton student was killed in Iraq?

"There is no draft, they are not immediately endangered by war," said Jonathon Spiro, a history professor. "In the 60s, students thought they were going to die."

By 1972 and 1973, returning veterans were leading the way in protesting the Vietnam War and some are doing the same with the Iraq War.

"When I went to Vietnam War, I originally supported the war, then I became vigorously against the war when I became part of it," said Communication Professor Tom Conroy, who is currently teaching about war propaganda.

From music to newspapers, the 60s and 70s were immersed in the war whether people liked it or not.

"The war was much more a part of everyone's life," Gillen said. "It was a part of the culture thinking whether one would have to serve."

Students like Matt Taranto say they do not feel they know enough politics to condemn or support the war, or are just sick of the coverage.

"I'm not really into politics," student Crystal Irish said when asked for her thoughts on the war. "I don't really watch the news."

People now are more cynical towards the government, Spiro said. Since the government started the war on terrorism and swept Iraq into that pact, people have been skeptical of the reasons behind the war.

"What was particular about this war was that politicians provided misleading information as the justification for the war," said Conroy.

The number of people who identified war as America's biggest problem was much greater during the Vietnam war, 69 percent, compared to the 27 percent surveyed in June 2004, according to the Gallup poll.

"Many people feel it's other people's business," Gillen said. "They are troubled by it, but feel it's not [their] problem."

The recent death of student Kurt Dechen, however, made the sting of the war hurt a little more for some students.

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

The owner uses the car to show support for the troops.

"It made me realize how close it was," Taranto said. "It hit home."

Different protest styles

Even though fewer people say the war in Iraq is the nation's biggest problem, people were protesting before it even started including a Facebook group "Am I the Only One Who Knew Iraq was a Bad Idea BEFORE the War?!?!." Major protests of the Vietnam War, conversely, began after young men started getting drafted.

"Damn right I'd protest the draft," student Marc Newcomb said forcefully. "Up until then, people who were fighting volunteered. It's wrong to force people to fight."

Not all people fear the draft, however. Student Seth Tuper recalled how his grandfather found his calling in the Army after being drafted in the Vietnam War.

"Drafting is very much an evil necessity when used correctly," Tuper said.

And one major difference between the two wars – despite an individual's stance on it – is the universal support for the troops. Returning soldiers aren't being spit on when they return, but are often given a hero's welcome.

And although the protests are fewer and smaller, and peace signs are being replaced by yellow ribbons and peace blogs, student Crystal Irish is okay with that.

She realizes that these more passive protests have not created as much of a stir as the vocal ones during Vietnam, but they still allow voices to be heard. To partake in the in-your-face protests of the Vietnam era "would cause a war among ourselves," she said.

And some students like Tuper say protests or not, the troops really can't be pulled out of Iraq until the job is complete.

Others like Taranto, however, believe that the government is delaying the removal of troops and is "finding reasons to go in the area longer."

Vietnam veteran Mark Hillyer, from Poultney, simply wants an end to a war that is beginning to too closely parallel the one he fought in three decades ago, one that similarly had people wondering why we were fighting.

"We have no right to be there, we have no right to police the world," Hillyer said. "We have to support the troops, to do everything we can to bring them out alive and well."

So, the stress that comes with the first few weeks of school seems to be fading. Everyone is settling into their new surroundings, new classes, and new friends.

I know I'm not as worried as I was before. I think everyone is getting used to this place, and thinking of it as home. There is one big difference here for me however. I can't get over the amount of waste we produce!

It just hit me when I saw trash pile up in my garbage can in less than 24 hours. Not only do we have so much trash, we don't know how to get rid of it properly.

How old were you when you were taught to pick up after yourself? Most parents start their children off early. This doesn't mean that kids always pick up after themselves, but they are usually forced to pick up. Adults were trying to embed in our system that it is polite to others and good for the environment when we take care of our messes.

Apparently as you grow older, you forget this skill. At my high school, trash was ridiculous. No one realized how this made our school look. No, we don't have to go around picking up every piece of garbage we see, but cleaning up your own trash is expected. I think we are old enough to handle this "responsibility".

I had hoped I left this type of juvenile behavior back in high school. This week I was proven wrong. As freshmen, we are assigned to do a lot of recycling projects throughout the year in our FYS groups. On Sept. 18, we participated in a recycling event. We got to empty the blue bins that are found on the bottom floor of each building. Sounds simple, huh?

Not exactly.

Most bins were pretty nasty. Some were even overflowing. Others held cans with liquid left inside that had dripped onto the floor, into the bin, or just leaked out the bottom. I guess it's really hard to dump out what is left in the cans before throwing them in the recycling bin. Good job with the recycling and good job with being gross.

Then there are the hallways. I understand dirt, and maybe mud from everyday walking. But when you spill a drink or even food, you don't leave it there for someone else to clean up. That is kind of disgusting, don't you agree? I won't say I'm the cleanest person, or that I've never littered, but I am continuously picking up junk scattered on the lawns. Sometimes I don't even bother because it seems like a lost cause.

Could it be because that when our parents aren't around, or that there are no rules to pick up after ourselves, we don't feel the need to be cleanly? We pay to go to school here, shouldn't we want to keep it clean? I'm beginning to wonder if at this point in our lives, we have lost the part of the brain that holds common sense.

What are trash cans for? Trash, maybe. And smoking posts? The ones right in front of the buildings are full, but the ones about 10 feet away of those have nothing in them. How hard is it to walk over to the empty one instead of over stuffing the one that is obviously full.

I know the world isn't perfect, and that our campus isn't going to be perfect. But this is our own space. I don't understand how hard it is to take are of. The campus isn't trashed or disgusting, it's just sad how we, as so called adults, can't take care of one simple thing.

- Joanna Doolan

Safe Ride turns ten, needs drivers

By Jacqueline Borelli and Michelle Spier
Spartan Staff

Everyone knows what the Safe Ride van looks like when it rolls up to the bar or the party on the weekends, but few people probably realize that this is the 10th year it has been rolling.

And as the college grows, Safe Ride organizers say so does the need for volunteers to staff it.

Joe Zeitler, a junior and Community Advisor at Castleton, has been working with Safe Ride for roughly three years, trying to ensure that that those who are out partying have a way to safely get home.

Zeitler said he wants to offer as much help as he can to keep Safe Ride running.

"I'd hate to see something bad happen to my friends," Zeitler said.

Zeitler spoke about how being involved in Safe Ride does not just involve driving the vehicles. Volunteers are needed to help answer phone calls from those who need a ride or just to ride along in the van with the driver on pick-up runs.

"CA's are trying their best to promote information about safe ride to new students," he said.

But more needs to be done on campus to raise awareness of the program, Zeitler said. Many people already take advantage of it, he said, and the small group of people that keep it going works hard to improve it as much as possible.

Deb Choma, director of the Wellness Center, started Safe Ride here at Castleton, which she said has influenced many other schools to adopt similar programs.

She said the biggest problem with keeping it going, however, is definitely finding drivers, which they are desperate for.

Recently the school changed insurance carriers which led to a new requirement that all Safe Ride drivers be 21 or older. The insurance change is a big culprit causing the lack of drivers, Choma said, saying there was seldom a staffing problem when 18 year-olds could drive.

"I am very disappointed in the upper classmen because they are of age, and they are the ones who use it," said Choma, of the lack of volunteers.

In 10 years of operation, Choma said there has never been a complaint about the program or an accident with the van.

And the birth of the program was rooted in tragedy - and an effort to avoid another one.

"It's my baby," Deb said proudly. "It was started in memory of my nephew who was killed by a drunk driver."

Choma and other Safe Ride volunteers urge students who use the service to take a turn volunteering. To do so, contact Choma at extension 1313.

Lima Beans:

Dispatch from a world away

This is the second long-distance dispatch from Kristina Collins, who along with Ariel Delaney is studying this semester in Lima, Peru.

By Kristina Collins
Spartan Staff

For all of its glory, Peru was conquered many times from outside and within. There were the Wari, the Incas and the Spanish.

And then came the dictatorships, revolutionaries and corruption. I'm not going to get into that, but this country has quite the history.

Basically, Peru gained its independence from Spain in 1821, ended slavery by the end of the 19th century, experienced a European immigration invasion and then a century of political and military uprisings.

So just about every village has an influence from one of these periods in history. We finally got to experience that on a hike. Well, I guess it was considered a trek through a handful of tiny agricultural villages all built on the side of a mountain.

The only way in or out is a narrow, steep Incan path.

If you're lucky, a cactus might break your fall. The donkeys, goats and horses don't go very high, but there were a few dogs and chickens when we reached the fog line.

So after 10 miles of not looking down, we finally made it to the top of the Masaak ruins.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY KRISTINA COLLINS

Ariel and Kristina pause at some of the Incan ruins with the peak of Masaak in the background.

Okay, so ruins don't look glorious after centuries of erosion, but it was definitely a sight to see. It was also quite refreshing to breathe clean air outside of the city.

Lima truly is an incredible place. From beaches to mountains, indigenous customs to European influence, there is always something to celebrate.

The last Wednesday in August was Saint Rose Day where all schools close to recognize the patron saint of Lima, whose monastery and church still exist in Central Lima.

Unfortunately all of these holidays fall on a Wednesday, and few give you the day off.

October break would be great right now, but that's only because midterms are in a week.

Happy studying! Ciao!

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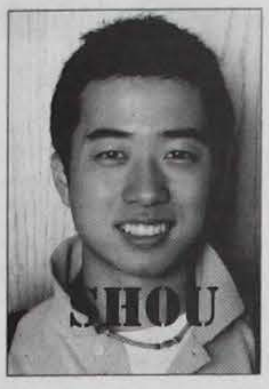
do it now.
?

Myth of English Words



Six years ago, on a beautiful sunny day with cold breeze, I, Shoichiro Watanabe, took a first step on Martha's Vineyard, U.S.A, with few English words stored in my brain.

It was my first time coming to the United States to go to school. I was put into a language school on Martha's Vineyard for the first four months until the beginning of the regular high school year.

During this time, I had one of the most interesting experiences in my life. One of the biggest issues for me was the language. I mis-understood so many words that other people said.

The word "son of a bitch" is one of them.

One of my Korean friends was saying "some of the beatch, some of the beatch" in Korean accent. I had no idea what he was saying, but I thought he was saying "some of the beaches."

Being the resourceful student that I am, I went to ask one of my English teachers. "What does 'some of the beatch' mean?" "What?" said my teacher.

I said it again louder.

"Some of the beatch!"

My teacher told me that it was a cursing word and I should never say that again.

Another time, some of my friends and I went to see a high school lacrosse game and a player made an amazing goal.

Suddenly, a guy right next me goes, "that was a sick shot" and another guy said, "he's so sick!"

I was little confused at that moment, but soon I came up with a decent thought. That player is sick. I thought he must be playing with a cold and fever. I was amazed how he could play so well being so sick. Later on, I found out what those guys actually meant about him.

There are also words, like pussy, that are confusing. I didn't realize it, but this word has at least three meanings. First is a slang term for a woman's private parts, second is a cat, and third is a term for a coward.

A couple of days ago in Rutland, my friend and I were waiting in a line to purchase some groceries at a store. A lady in front of me was asked to pay $4 and 12 cents for a bag of cat food, but she only had $4 on her.

The old lady asked me if she could borrow 12 cents, so I gave her 25 cents. As she was walking out of the store, she yelled "My pussies thank you!"

I was lost for words.

I had no idea what to respond for that, so I just waved to her.

- Sho Watanabe

CSC joining the effort to register voters

By Janet Perron
Spartan Staff

With Rich Tarrant and Bernie Sanders ads splattered all over television and campaign signs on numerous lawns around the state one might have guessed it's almost election time.

It's just around the corner, Nov. 7 to be exact, and that leaves little time to catch up on where candidates stand on important issues. But before researching candidates, one thing must be done if it hasn't already - registration.

"I never found it to be all that important or valuable," 19-year-old Castleton sophomore Justin Morris said about registering to vote.

"There was never any real motivation to do it," he continued explaining how he doesn't feel his vote would make a difference. "But I also think that is because of the fact that I don't know enough about how it all works."

Morris said he believes others his age don't vote for the same reason and he said education about politics might incline him and them to register.

They're in luck. There will be a chance for Morris and others to register to vote here on campus through a program called The National Campus Voter Registration Project being initiated by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

Matthew Patry, academic counselor at Castleton's Academic Support Center, was asked by Castleton's Academic Dean Joseph Mark to work with the American Democracy Project in registering voters through the AASCU program.

The goal for AASCU is to register 40,000 students nationwide and approximately 105 students here at Castleton.

The project is a research experiment to see which methods of getting students to register works best. At public colleges, where this project is being initiated, the methods of getting out voter information is by mailings to campus boxes, campus e-mails, tabling, and classroom presentations, some led by students others by professors.

Here at Castleton, the project is experimenting with traditional tabling and professor-led presentations in classrooms. Fifteen members of Castleton's faculty have agreed to be part of this program, one being Professor Linda Olson.

Olson agreed to participate, but is now waiting for further instruction. Some professors will be presenting to their classes voter education brochures about registering and other classrooms will being the controlled part of the experiment in which they will be required to say nothing about registering.

There will also be registration booths in different locations on campus in hopes to get commuters as well as those who live on campus to register.

Castleton senior Tara Chagnon voted in the primary election so certain candidates wouldn't go onto the mid-term election and she speaks of how important it is to have her vote count.

"They [students] don't care, don't think their vote means anything," she said.

She stressed the importance of obtaining an absentee ballot for the election, and said that just because students are away from home shouldn't be an excuse not to get their vote in.

Youth voting is lower for mid-term elections than in presidential election years, but both Tarrant and Sanders officials say they want college voters to hit the polls this year.

Jordan Coopersmith, a Sander's campaign office field staff member, spoke about a staff member from their campaign being assigned to almost every college in the state to help reach out to students, to get them to vote. They'll even help them get to the polls on Election Day, he said.

"In contexts of our grassroots campaign, this can only be successful if student activists take charge," Coopersmith said.

The Tarrant Campaign Manager, Tim Lennon, spoke about Tarrant on education, how Tarrant is on the board of UVM and St. Michael's College and understands issues that are important to college students.

He spoke of Tarrant's desire to have a Vermont technical college within commuting distance of all Vermonters so students can stay at home if they have to and attend classes.

"If we can get students to change their mindset to 'I can make a difference' they can," Patry said.

He said students "feel the process doesn't represent them," but he stressed that a small group of passionate students can make a difference.

Twenty year-old Castleton junior Shea Bigsby agrees with the thought that so few students her age vote "because they don't think that they matter."

"But what they don't realize is that their votes could change everything -- if they voted," she said.

Bigsby is voting in the midterm election because issues like education, health care, the environment and the war are important to her and she wants her voice heard.

"We can change the world," she said. "Vote because you can change the world."

Reel Action club focuses on real problems

By Matt Kimball
Spartan Contributor

While sitting back and taking big bites from slices of pizza with like-minded friends, Reel Action Club members last week relived the gruesome images of September 11, 2001 with the screening of 'Hijacking Catastrophe.'

'Hijacking Catastrophe,' an independent film about American foreign policy and mainstream news media in the aftermath of Sept. 11, was the first film screened this semester by the socially conscious club, which promotes social activism and awareness by showing monthly screenings of independent films that support the same agenda.

Reel Action Castleton is a local chapter of the Action Coalition For Media Education consisting of chapters in high schools, colleges and universities all over the nation

The club was started after its catalyst, Sanjukta Ghosh, professor of communications and women's studies, attended an ACME conference at Green Mountain College. Also, during her time teaching at the University of Vermont, Ghosh said she was amazed by the involvement of students in their local ACME chapter.

"They were feisty, full of energy and their fire inside was infectious," she said. "I want CSC to be a campus where learning and social activism and political engagement is fashionable."

The club initially began in fall of 2005 by students from Ghosh's International Communication class and quickly grew in popularity. At the end of its first year as a club, it was awarded Best New Club 2006 and Best Club 2006 by the Student Association.

First-year member Eric Kapitan believes the club is an ideal group for his views.

"I have an interest in social issues and I try to respect everybody's opinion, but I'm not radical," said Kapitan. "The club should have a culmination of all opinions and it shouldn't be biased."

A misconception of the club, according to Ghosh, is that it just shows films about politics and government. She said the club has shown films like Supersize Me, which is about fast food, and End Of Suburbia, a critical look at American Suburbs.

Current Club President Catalina Alcaraz, a junior at Castleton, says she hopes the club will show that "being socially committed is not a bad thing." She said she believes the club offers an alternative to the massive influence of mainstream films.

"I didn't like the movies that the Student Association was showing. They only had mainstream films and no independent ones," said Alcaraz. "Plus we always make sure there is good food."

Future plans for the club include hosting a film festival showing students' activism films and getting voter registration booths at film screenings. Alcaraz is very optimistic about future screenings for the club and said she believes in diversity.

"The spectrum is real big and we can talk about anything," said Alcaraz.

Next Reel Action: A wake up call about coffee

By Catalina Alcaraz
Spartan Contributor

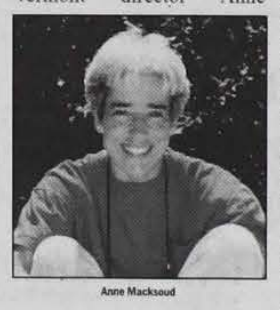
Several activists in documentaries and lectures say social actions need to be taken on the local level these days.

They say we may not think we can change the world, but we have lots of time to make small things happen in our communities that will reflect and make a big difference around the globe.

Castleton State College's Reel Action Club hopes to foster this belief through the films it shows and the discussions and actions that follow.

The club's latest film, to be shown at 6:15 on Oct. 2 in Herrick Auditorium, is "Birdsong and Coffee: A Wake Up Call."

This film was produced by Vermont director Anne



Anne Macksoud

Macksoud, who will be attending the screening and answering questions.

Macksoud said that the documentary explores the "coffee crisis" and its devastating effects on migratory songbirds, rainforest ecosystems, and 25 million coffee growers worldwide. It also shows how we, the coffee consumers, can do something about it.

She said she believes in local efforts, and said her film has encouraged some local businesses to sale fair trade coffee.

You can see more information about the film on http://www.olddogdocumentaries.com.

The event starts at 5:30 p.m. with Latin food provided by the Spanish Club.

Remember the Constitution

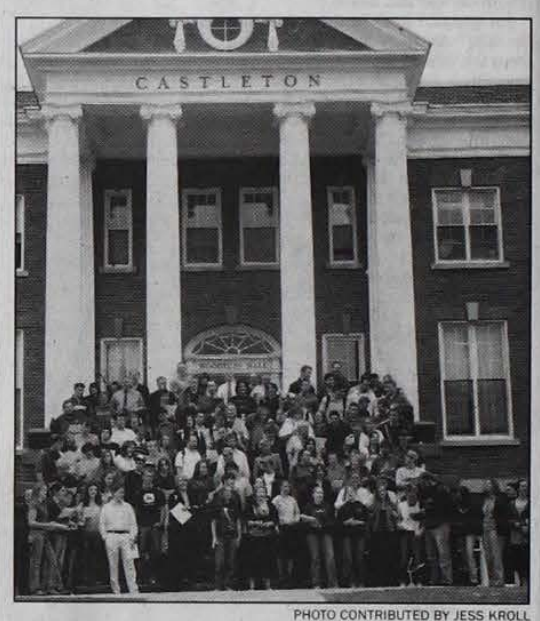


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JESS KROLL

The choir sings the national anthem in front of Woodruff.

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

On Sept. 17, 1787, a piece of paper containing what some consider to be among the most important expressions in the United States was adopted. On that day, in Philadelphia, the 55 delegates of the Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution.

More than two centuries later, that one document still stands as a vital part of American life.

In 2004, Congress passed a provision that on that same day, schools and colleges that receive federal money must, in one form or another, teach about the Constitution. In effect, "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day" was created.

Traditionally the government has strayed from telling educational institutions when something must be taught since that right, under the 10th amendment, is reserved to the states.

However, with the help of West Virginian Sen. Robert Byrd, the directive was passed. As of right now, the Education Department holds schools to an honor system and there are no specifics as to what will happen if schools do not follow the law.

"I don't like the fact that the government mandated it, but given the fact that it is and people have gaps about the Constitution, we turn the whole thing into something positive," said Associate Academic Dean Renny Harrigan.

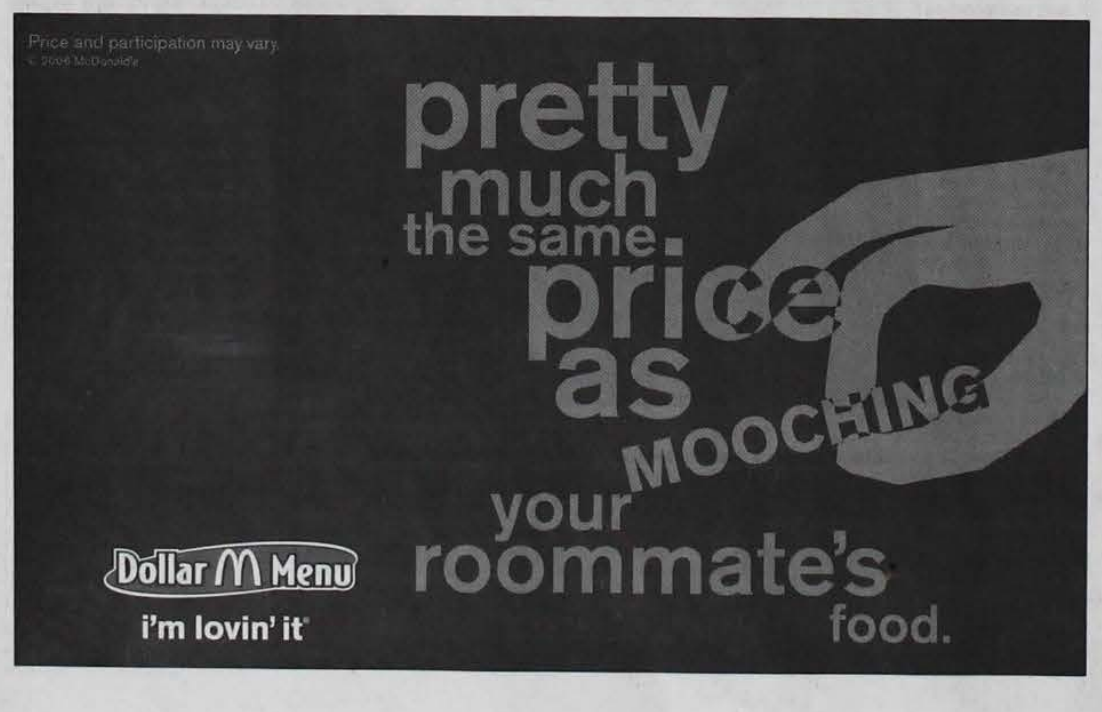
For the second year in a row, Castleton held a few campus events in celebration of Sept. 17 that included MENC singing the national anthem on the steps of Woodruff, voter registration and Stuart Edge-Gerrol presenting a living history of the revolutionary period.

Jason Opal also presented a Soundings event, "Liberal Elites and Local Democrats: The Cultural Politics of the Constitution, Then and Now."

"He discussed the struggles of the Constitution at its beginning. It was interesting," said Harrigan. "It has been a highly contested document from the beginning and it is important to understand that it is a living document."

So why should learning about the Constitution be important to Castleton students?

"I think that we tend to forget that we have these protections and rights. I think we really forget they need to be fought for to maintain them if they are going to be valuable," said Harrigan. "It is important to know and not give it up."



Silent Auction & Formal Dinner

The Castleton Collegiate Chorale will be holding a Silent Auction & Formal Dinner at the Holiday Inn in Rutland on Saturday, October 21st. The event is to benefit the Chorale's European tour this coming May 2007. The auction will feature original works from Vermont artists and authors, as well as some works by Castleton artists. Tickets are $40 each, and include the cost of dinner and admission to the auction. To purchase tickets or for further information call (802)468-6435, or e-mail jessica.pehm@castleton.edu or lindsay.sullivan@castleton.edu.

Screaming, witches and time travel!

By James Lorentz
Spartan Staff

Screams, shrieks, cries of terror, and pleas for salvation echoed throughout the newly renovated Casella Theater on Sept. 21 as the Castleton State College Theater Arts Department presented Arthur Millers "The Crucible."

On a stage with very few set pieces and plain lighting, Miller's parable of the misery caused by the McCarthy anti-Communist hearings of the 1950's was performed.

This interpretation chose to place the action of the play in 1953 instead of the original 1692, the inference for such a drastic change in setting can only be that the artistic vision of this show was driving towards making our society see a modern day witch hunt occurring now.

A directorial choice such as this time change was not only unwarranted, it was detrimental to the overall effect of the piece.

The language in "The Crucible" is not archaic, it is not in verse, or containing strange emphases on certain syllables, it is, however, dated. To see a man walk on stage in a costume that portrays the 1950's very well, and to hear him speak with words that are strangely put together, temporarily takes one out of the moment. It is hard to focus on the true connections between actors when the language clashes so with the surroundings.

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI

Heather Barnes, Christina LaBarge, Sam Ducharme, and Victoria Abigail praying to God to send the witches hence

John Proctor (Dave Gabaree) our tragic hero in "The Crucible" carried the part well with striking moments of intensity that stole the stage and would unfortunately be undercut by a break in his stance, with his body going from stern and focused to almost floundering the next moment.

Elizabeth Proctor (Lauren Martin) was a joy to watch amidst all the yelling (and there was a lot of it) and she carried herself with quiet dignity and delivered many of her line in a low decibel that contained more power than any of the shouters in the cast.

There were many other notable appearances and characters that impacted the audience, even though they only had a handful of lines. For the most part these gems saved many scenes when the energy was seemingly forced to the edge of tolerance, or simply not there.

Much of the direction seemed to be focused at scaring the audience into attention, the level of yelling was briefly taken away by soft words from Abigail Williams (Christina Labarge) who exuded sensuality, wisdom, and viscous cunning, and whose voice contained all three. Another pleasure to watch was Francis Nurse (Matthew Howk), an old doddling man who seemed confused much of the time and softly shuffled around the stage.

In the chaos of the often melodramatic acting, these and a few other actors truly appeared to be the adults on stage with the children. These actors who did not succumb to the frantic yell-fest commanded attention in their honest portrayal, this is not to say that even they as well didn't not slip up once in a while. One such instance occurred when John Proctor in a sporadic fit of anger pulls a large whip off the wall and cracks it against the stage. This outburst seemed there only because the actor was told to do it, spontaneous, not needed and confusing.

At the end of "The Crucible" we see the evolution of the masses gone awry, the blind fear of government, and the craze of witch hunting run its unfortunate course. The parallels from Miller's play to the 1950's is well documented. The choice to set the play in the 50's so that we view its message in a modern context is insulting not only to the audience member who knows the show, but also to Arthur Miller, whose subtext is not limited to 1953 or 1692, but rather every age where there is dissent.

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI

Julian DeFelice pleas with Courtney Laflamme who played his wife.

Sounding Off

The place for Soundings Information & Feedback

Event Countdown -13 left to choose from

Upcoming events:

Music:

Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center (Casella Theatre) Vermont Symphony Orchestra performs Made in Vermont Music

Oct. 3, N-Period (12:30 p.m.), Fine Arts Center, Manhattan Piano Trio Master Class - Come take a musical journey in which the trio's performers use their piano, cello, & violin to touch your emotions in an effort to console, provide hope, and bridge cultural divides. The trio, which will perform this same evening at 7:30 p.m., offers an opportunity to meet the musicians and hear about the story behind the performance.)

Oct. 5, 7:30 pm, Fine Arts Center, Cathie Ryan
Traditional music and modern message meet in Cathie Ryan's Celtic compositions. She is advertised as "one of Celtic Music's most popular and enduring singer-songwriter's." Treat yourself to a great evening of Celtic music.

Social Awareness:

Oct. 17, 12:30 p.m., Herrick Auditorium, Professor Lillian Jackson's talk entitled, "Dismas House of Rutland, VT"* Professor Jackson will speak about the role Dismas House, a transitional residence for former prison inmates, plays in the Rutland Community and the relationship Castleton State College has established with Dismas House.

Drama/Social Awareness:

Oct. 18, 7 p.m., Fine Arts Center, Kenny Carnes, "Pieces of War"
From his position as a former soldier, Carnes presents a cast of characters who explore the realties of war and the possibilities of peace. (His promotional material calls it dramatic verse, but it sounds like rapping to me.)

*Since the last 3 events in Herrick were standing room only the site may change--check before you go.

Soundings event feedback: Lyme Disease Lecture

Question: Why is it important to educate and advocate for yourself if you develop an illness?
"Your health is most important to you, so you will spend more time and effort on your own issues - with the potential to be a source and integral tool in your own treatment and diagnosis." Kyra Wilson
". . . you have to stick up for yourself if you think there might be more to it and your Dr. disagrees; you need to keep requesting tests and inputs because your doctor could be wrong." Sarah Catanese

Liberal Elites & Local Democrats

Question: How has the meaning of the word "liberal" changed since the 1700's?"

". . . in the 1700's people who considered themselves liberals were open-minded and 'enlightened' versus today [when] people are considered 'not in touch with the real world.'" Tara Williams

"It [being liberal] represented an ability to think open-mindedly and to truly care about others. Today, even though many liberals still follow the spirit of this definition, 'liberal' has been demonized and typically means nothing more than a belief in left-wing politics."
Jason Kibby

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Entertainment Corner

The Mars Volta mix the sounds of music in new cd "Amputechture"

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

'Amputechture,' the latest album from The Mars Volta that hit record store on Sept. 12 is like taking a hallucinogenic drug.

The Mars Volta first landed on the music scene in 2003 when they released their debut album 'De-Loused in the Comatorium,' inspired by the suicide of their friend Julio Venegas. The album describes a drug-induced coma in which the protagonist experiences a series of surreal dreams.

In 2005, the band released its sophomore album titled 'Frances the Mute.' The band's late sound manipulator Jeremy Ward wrote the album, which is loosely based on a diary he found in a car he repossessed.

The Mars Volta has with their first two albums created a unique sound. Take the fast beats of electronica and salsa, the insane guitar from the psychedelic era, ambient noise and the high pitched voice of Singer Cedric Bixler-Zavala - who sounds like a screaming banshee - and you have The Mars Volta.

Bixler-Zavala's lyrics are incredibly obscure and play with the mind.

"Please dismantle all these phantom limbs, it's the evidence of humans as ornaments, humans as ornaments, humans as ornaments, humans as ornaments," as an example.

The sounds that come from

Omar Rodriguez-Lopez's guitar will tickle your ears and blow your ear drums out at the same time. The instrumentals build and build until your head is about to pop off, then the music breaks and all is well. The experience of listening to these musicians is truly enlightening.

Rodriguez-Lopez produced 'Amputechture,' which allowed the band more freedom. The band's use of sound manipulators and distortion effects are more evident in this album.

Bixler-Zavala said in an MTV.com interview that he found inspiration for this album from two sources; immigration and a nun who was locked in a room and left to starve after telling how she spoke with the devil.

Now, who are The Mars Volta most like? I would say they're a mix between the disco electronica band Head Automatica, the storytelling rock band Coheed and Cambria and 1970s psychedelic rock band Led Zeppelin.

Songs off of 'Amputechture' to pay attention to include Vermicide, Meccamputechture and Viscera Eyes.

Lucky Number Slevin doesn't disappoint

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

You know a movie is going to be a delight to watch when it combines a twisting story of mistaken identity and top of the class award-winning actors. Lucky Number Slevin is one of those movies.

It has a story line that is always revolving relating to characters that you don't know too much about until the very end. From the first scene, I knew I was going to be hooked by the creative cinematography, unique editing, snappy dialogue, odd characters, and the acting, which was surprising at times (in a good way).

Before I start talking about the nuts and bolts of the movie, I'll give you a little description of the story first, but, not so much as to ruin the ride for you.

Like what Goodkat (Bruce Willis) said about a good story, "Charlie Chaplin had a Charlie Chaplin look alike contest…and he came in third. Now that's a good story."

Slavin is a crimady (a hybrid of a comedy and crime movie) about a regular Joe named Slevin Kelevra (Josh Hartnett) who goes to visit his friend's apartment, finds him missing, and then gets abducted by two not-to-smart thugs because the boss of a fairly large and powerful gang needs to see him, even though Slevin is the wrong man.

From there, the story wraps around characters played by Morgan Freeman, Sir Ben Kingsley, Bruce Willis and Lucy Liu all giving entertaining and enjoyable performances.

As the story plays out you get the pleasure of meeting some odd characters. One character in particular, The Rabbi (Sir Ben Kingsley) is a leader of another gang, but at the same time he is a Rabbi, so as he is performing these horrible acts of murder and betrayal he knows what he is doing is wrong and accepts it. Many times the characters will ask why he is called the Rabbi, and every time the answer is "Cause he's a Rabbi."

One of the "normal" characters is Lindsay (Lucy Liu) and by normal I mean she is not in the same predicaments the other characters are in, but she does get caught up in the middle of it all. At least one part of her is a bit odd; she's one of the first morticians I've seen in a movie who wasn't eating something while looking over a dead body.

Now it is time for my favorite part of this movie, the dialogue. Throughout the whole movie, the characters speak in snappy, fast paced conversations like they would in the Be Bop jazz era.

"Lindsay: What happened to your nose? Slevin: I used it to break some guy's nose." "The Boss: Ever since somebody shot Slim he went deaf." " Thug1: The cats in town. Thug2: Good Kat? Thug1: That's what the junkies are singing."

To wrap it up, Luck Number Slevin is definitely a must see if you are a fan of crimadies, movies with style and a story that "…has more twists and turns than chubby checker" (Wrongfully Accused). When you're done reading this review, go and rent or buy Lucky Number Slevin, because I know you won't be disappointed.

FROM PAGE 1

Green takes CSC over

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

Seth Frank shows where the biodiesel separates from the glycerol.

BIO
From page 1

biodiesel produced by vegetable oil or on hydrogen, it's really only a dream.

The country would need 140 billion gallons of biodiesel each year just to replace the fuel that is used today. To produce enough fuel from vegetable oil, the country would need to use 1.4 billion of the 2.4 billion acres of U.S. land for vegetable production for the oil, according to an article written by David Schneider.

To reduce these numbers to a mere 9.5 million acres, fuel could be harvested from algae, according to a study by Michael Briggs at University of New Hampshire. Algae would not only leave space for livestock and civilization, but the cost would be theoretically less than half what is spent on gasoline now.

Hybrid vehicles are another option Castleton is utilizing to be more environmentally friendly. Castleton recently bought two Honda Civics to add to Wolk's personal hybrid vehicle. These hybrids are available for use to fleet drivers and have mainly been used by administrators attending meetings.

"It's a good idea, but I don't see society as a whole turning to them because we are so dependent on oil and they cost a lot of money," student Jacqueline Haas said.

Hybrid vehicles run on both gas and electricity; but they get between 45-50 miles per gallon, 15 to 30 gallons more than conventional sedans, according to an article written by Professor Daniel Kammen of University of California.

The Castleton hybrids have gotten as many as 48 miles per gallon, said Linda Wetherby from Physical Plant.

"I hate it when a car's smarter than me," Wetherby said.

Not only do the hybrids help the environment and save on gas money, but they have other features aimed to please.

"I fit comfortably in the back seat," Allen said, stretching out his legs. "That's my test."

While Frank and Brassill agree that the hybrids are good for the college, they would love to see diesel hybrid vehicles on campus.

A little taste of paradise

ZION
From page 1

Japan. He spent time in Japan filming and said he loves the style. He said his mother also spent time in Japan in 1917 so he was surrounded by signs of this unique culture frequently throughout his life.

Mickie, says she loves her husband's passion for the mountain and his spectacular rock masterpiece.

"Kit started with a small hole and just went from there," she said.

Mickie said she helps out as much as she can and is pleased to see Kit opening the mountain to the public.

"The past couple years has been like a snowball effect, with more and more people coming here," she said

The couple graciously allows anyone to drive up the lane, grab a map, and explore.

"I only have two rules, No Smoking, No Fires, NOT EVER," said Kit emphatically.

As long as people respect this, he said he respects them. It would be a shame to watch this land vanish because of people's carelessness, he said.

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI

Kit Davidson stands in front of his rock garden.

A place to think

Senior Tom Denison is another Zion regular who has made countless trips to the mountain.

Denison spent an entire weekend camping on the mountain and enjoying the peaceful life. He said Zion is a great place to escape to, with the beautiful gardens, a chance to lounge in Adirondack chairs, or hiking through the trails

"It's good for clearing my head from school," he said.

He said he loves making his way around the mountain, even going off the beaten path. He also stressed his strong feeling about respecting the land and appreciating this wondrous gift - and he hopes others will do the same.

Jennifer Manning, a junior at Castleton who was first shown Zion from a friend, spoke fondly about the lasting memories from her hikes.

"There is just so much, if I don't want to walk one day, I can do the garden -- endless possibilities," she said

Manning said it doesn't take much time to hike the mountain and said it's a great day trip. The average hike up the mountain can take about a half an hour, but you can spend hours going from peak to peak.

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI

Veiwing Mount Zion from the top.

"It's the perfect adventure that you can do with the perfect friends," she said.

It's also a place to see things that others who don't venture into the woods don't get to experience.

Brassil excitedly spoke about being on the mountain one day when a curious deer made his way up the hill.

"I was sitting on one peak and I didn't know what was in the trees, she said. I then saw it was a deer. I got so close and I never feared him. He was just watching me and I was watching him," she said.

Castleton library goes hi-tech with Wi-Fi

By Jenna Charbonneau
Spartan Staff

The Castleton State College library is now wireless.

Now students and faculty don't have to wait for computer terminals to open up because wireless service allows them to access the Internet on their laptops without plugging in.

The idea of offering wireless Internet service was previously suggested by the library because of a lack of work stations available for students.

"I had no idea about the wireless Internet, but it will be very convenient for me now that I know," said Megan Bouvier, a freshman at Castleton. "I think it is a great idea."

It took a while for Wi-Fi to come to Castleton, mainly because the Information Technology Department wanted to do its research.

"If we were going to do it, we wanted to do it right," said Jonathan Czar, the IT system administrator.

Wi-Fi consists of eight access ports placed in different location within the ceiling of the library. Each port runs off a central system from a neighboring building.

Depending on wall interference, the range from a single port can reach up to 300ft, making the network available for anyone in the library or outside its doors.

Anyone who uses the network is protected from being "spied on" or "sniffed," Czar said, meaning not just anyone can view the information on your computer, like other wireless Internet connections you can connect to from other users.

"I am very confident about our IT department", says Sandy Duling, the library director. "They care a lot about the security of the network, and I think they do a wonderful job. So far we have had no problems with the Wi-Fi network."

In order to be able to access Wi-fi, your computer must be able to support WPA, and have a wireless card built in. If you don't have a memory card built in, you can buy one.

Castleton is considering offering wireless service in the housing areas of the campus. Right now the library is testing the network, making sure there are no "bugs" or "kinks" in the program, Czar said.

"It's absolutely wonderful," said Felicia Bosley, who has been using the network as a student in the library.

"It helps me get away from the noise in my dorm while still using my laptop."

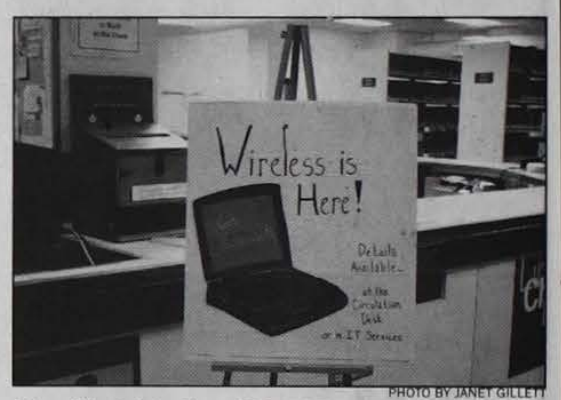

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

A sign notifying students of the new Wi-Fi availability.

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Question-If you could have any question answered what would it be?

Katy Diemer

"If animals can smell their own farts and know what it is?"

Luther Dow

"What would the world be like if all drugs were legal?"

Todd Bryne

"Are there other organisms outside the earth?"

Kaitlyn Hummel

"To what extent will I use my college degree?"

Jocelyn Emilo

"What would the world be like if Bush wasn't ever president?"

Nice to meet you, Mariko

By Jazmin Averbuck
Spartan Staff

Name: Mariko Hancock
Birthday: June 12th
Birthplace: Chiba, Japan
Current job title: Director of Cultural Programming
How long have you worked at CSC: 14 years
Favorite color: Gray-blue
Favorite season: Summer, because the ocean reminds her of home

When you first arrived in America, what was the biggest cultural difference between America and Japan?
The racial diversity and the language. People expected me to be automatically be fluent in the English language. Also, I used to get annoyed by the ignorant questions people would ask me about my culture, like 'do all Japanese eat raw fish for breakfast?'

What made you decide to come to America?
I wanted to make my own life, like choices of career and relationships. Originally, I wanted to go to Europe, but my elder brother already lived in Long Island so it was easier to come here and my parents agreed to let me go.

What made you decide to move to Vermont?
I met my now husband in New York City and his teaching job brought us to Vermont.

What do you love about your job?
The creativity and seeing the audience light up to the performances I have booked is like a high. It gives me a feeling of accomplishment.

What do you not like about your job?
The long hours can be taxing and it seems when I am in an audience outside of CSC I tend to critique the performances, ushers, and box office, instead of just enjoying the performance. Or if I like the performance, I'd start making notes.

What was the most memorable performance that has been on the CSC stage?
In 1997 the American Repertory Ballet did a rendition of Swan Lake and as the dancers were dancing under a suspended moon the moon fell and was swinging just above the stage, and the dancers didn't lose a beat and kept dancing.

Favorite quote?
"Live an ethical life" - Delhi Llama

PHOTO BY MATTHEW LINDEN

Mariko Hancock shows off the tickets she hands out.

Anything more to say to the readers of The Spartan?
Art is a foundation of everything you do in life. There is nothing like live performances. Consider that the artists on stage are giving you their soul. Take advantage of performance like in soundings. Make it a lifetime habit.

Dorm Shopping

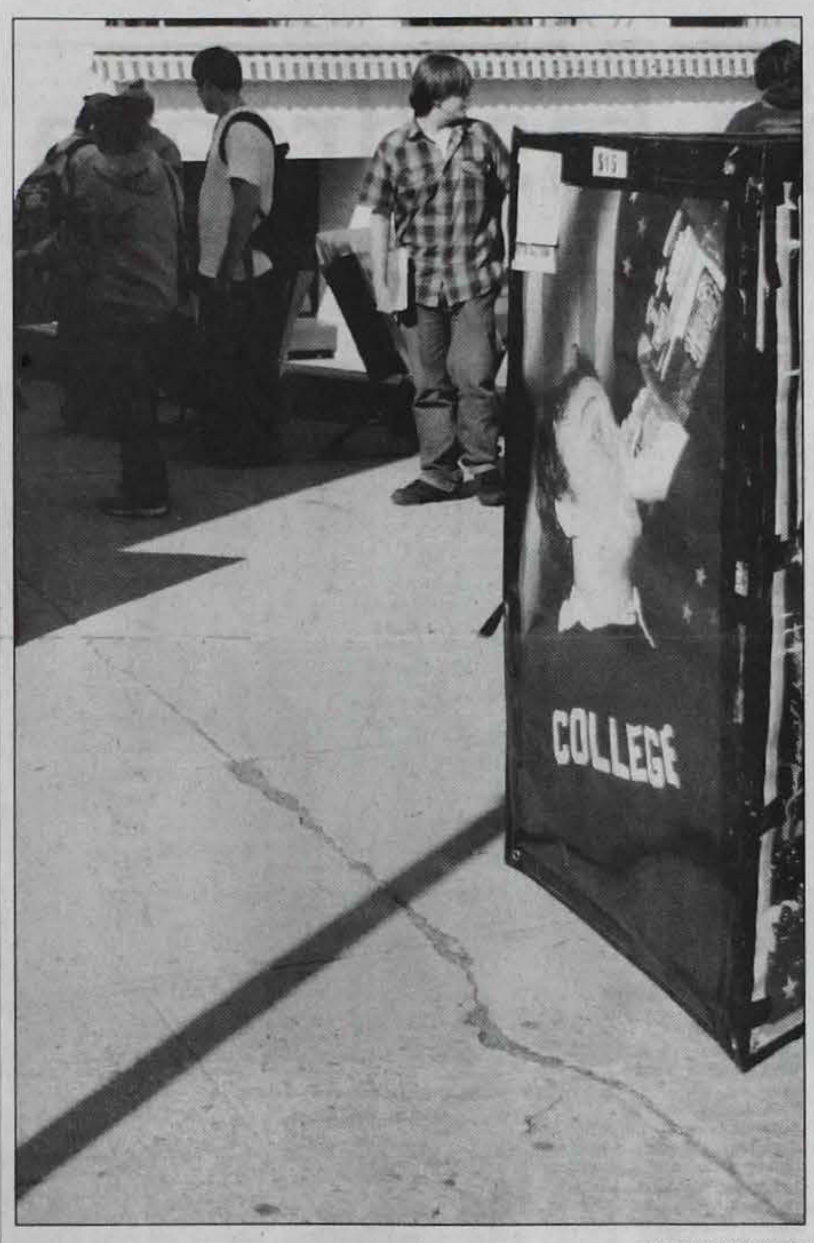


PHOTO BY KENNETH TYLER

Student peruse various dorm size posters in front of the Student Center on Monday.

Alumni profile

Editor's Note:Tom Heleba (Class of '89) is a sports copy editor for The Washington Post, where he's worked since the summer of 2000. Prior to that he worked at the Arizona Daily Star in Tucson for nearly 10 years and before that was a sports reporter for the Eagle Times in Claremont, N.H., where he was hired a week after graduating Castleton. He currently lives in Ellicott City, Md.with is wife Julie, daughters Elisabeth and Emily and son Philip.

I never would have believed that when I walked into my first class atCastleton State College that it would ultimately lead me to the South Lawn of the White House, but that's exactly what happened.

Over 20 years ago I stepped into my first class -- ommunications 101, I believe -- with Professor Terry Dalton. I had enrolled at CSC as a businesmajor, but Terry had such a huge influence on me from the very beginning that I switched to communications/journalism within a week.

Tom Heleba with his wife and daughter

Over four years I took every journalism class that Castleton offered, and Terry was the professor for about 90 percent of them. His classes were usually small is size, but that was a huge advantage for us students.

There was a certain give-and-take that was a constant theme in Terry's classes, and a lot of times they amounted to a round-table discussion between young journalists and our professor.

Media ethics was perhaps my favorite class because more than any other it allowed us to debate with fellow classmates. There was never a wrong answer, but we had to be able to support our beliefs with a well thought-out argument. I've continued to have those same types of debates at every paper

I've worked since graduating.

Quite frankly, it's because of my wonderful experiences at Castleton, and with Terry Dalton in particular, that newspaper work is the only thing I know how to do.

Looking back I must have really loved it because within a week of graduating I took my first job at the Eagle Times in Claremont, N.H., where I worked about 60 hours a week and was paid for 20 ... or so it seemed. I was part of a two-man desk and we did everything from writing stories to taking photographs to designing pages.

After a year in Claremont, I took a job in Arizona and eventually moved on to Washington.

I've accomplished more than I ever expected thanks to my time at Castleton -- from covering the NFL and Division I college basketball to reporting from the All-Star Game in Boston and heading to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. for the Red Sox' World Series celebration.

Every day I get to work with some of the most talented people in the business, and I'm quite certain that Castleton had a lot to do with that.

Changes at Huden, new director wants students happy

By Dawson Rapuzzi
Spartan Staff

Returning students who haven't noticed a change in Huden Dining Hall this year soon will, or at least that's what new Food Service Director Pete Merritt hopes.

This July, Castleton hired Merritt to replace outgoing director Jeff Cairns, and he immediately began thinking of ways to improve the food quality and the overall food service at Huden Dining Hall.

Merritt worked for Aramark, Castleton's food service provider, for 11 years prior to coming to Castleton, all spent at the University of Maine.

Upon coming to CSC, he brought with him many ideas, some of which he took from his old school and others from talking with CSC President David Wolk.

"He brought to Castleton a lot of innovative and exemplary ideas, and I am excited to help him bring those ideas to reality for the benefit of our students and our entire community," Wolk said of Merritt.

For one thing, Merritt has made a conscious effort to improve is buying local foods. Castleton has already converted to buying all of its milk from Thomas Dairy, a family owned dairy located in Rutland.

This year's Thanksgiving feast, Merritt hopes, will be almost completely made up of locally bought food. If all goes to plan, anything that can be bought from local farmers, from the turkeys to the apples in the pies, will be.

He believes that this is important to do because it supports the local communities, as well as provides students with the freshest quality.

Many students say they support the idea of buying local.

"I'm sure it would be better and of a more fresh quality," junior John Quinn said.

Another goal Merritt has is to provide more nutritional options at every meal, and let the students know the nutritional value of what they're eating.

PHOTO BY BETH PANTZER

Pete Merritt is the new Huden director.

By this coming week, Merritt plans to begin posting signs in Huden that will provide all of the nutritional information for each meal.

Merritt is also concentrating on reducing waste in Huden. In an effort to make CSC more "green," he has been working with the "Green Team" on campus and has already stopped ordering products in foam packaging and has begun recycling anything that can be.

He also plans to compost biodegradable leftover foods in the future, which the school will then be able to reuse as fertilizer, he said.

Another plan for the future that Merritt is extremely excited about is starting a vegetable and herb garden.

His ideas and effort has impressed many people around campus.

"Pete is committed to delivering high quality food for students and guests, respecting the staff and students, and improving the overall food service operation," Wolk said.

Merritt said he knows he cannot make every student happy on his own, so he is open to suggestions from students and faculty with any other ideas on how to improve Huden.

He also wants to hear any questions, suggestions, or complaints about the food being served.

"It is important to me to be approachable. I want people to know who I am, and then come to me with anything," Merritt said.

One student did so last week, suggesting for Huden to serve a Cuban soup that his mother makes.

Merritt told the student to come back with the recipe and if it was possible he would be glad to serve it.

He said he simply wants to satisfy students.

"Things are going to be changing all year, right up until the week of graduation," he said.

Women's soccer team 4-1 in NAC

By Shou Watanabe
Spartan Staff

The Castleton State College women's soccer team is halfway done with their season with an overall record of 5-3-1 and 4-1 in NAC league. The women's team is performing better than ever and continues to improve as the season goes on.

The Spartans suffered a tough 1-0 loss against Green Mountain College on Sept.12, but that didn't derail them. They went on to win three straight games against Bay Path, Wheelock, and Mass.-Liberal Arts. During homecoming/parents weekend, the Spartans lost to U. Maine-Farmington in overtime and won against Thomas College.

The Castleton women surprised the home crowd with a huge improvement in the second home game against Mass.-Liberal Arts on Sept. 20. The Spartans scored four goals and only two shots got by Castleton goalkeeper Kim Allen. The team kept up the intensity on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball throughout the game.

The Spartans went into the weekend double-header against U. Maine- Farmington and Thomas College with an undefeated record in the NAC. The game against U. Maine was a re-match of the conference championship last year. The game was played on a wet and slippery field, which changed the tempo of play. Each team had an equal number of chances to score a goal, but both defenses blocked all the attacks.

Katie Hoxsie, a freshman defender, was all over the opponent's offense and stole the ball from them repeatedly.

The pace of the game seemed to accelerate in the second half. The Spartans' Tracy Stala scored a goal off Brean Farquharson's assist to put her team on the board 1-0. Just two minutes after the Spartan goal, U. Maine scored off a shot that was mishandled by Allen.

The game went into sudden death overtime. Less then 20 seconds left in the first half of overtime, U. Maine's Melisa St. Amand scored the game-winning goal.

The Spartans played against Thomas College the very next day. This time, the weather was nice and the sky was clear. The Spartans showed no disappointment or fatigue on their faces after a tough loss the day before.

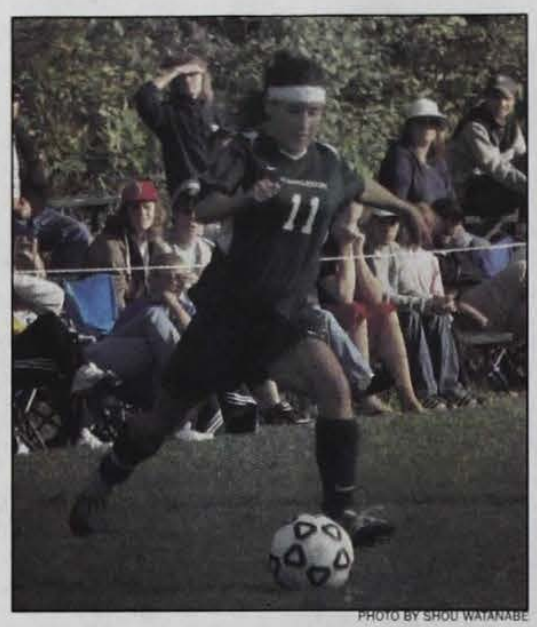


PHOTO BY SHOU WATANABE

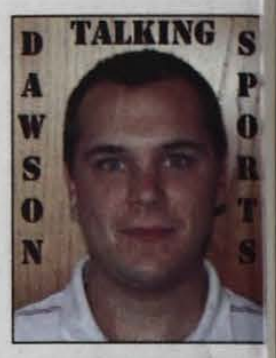
Casey FitzGerald drives a ball towards the goal on Sunday.

Castleton controlled the game from the first whistle to the very last whistle. After 19 minutes had passed in the first half, Tracy Stala took a powerful shot just outside of the box, and the ball sailed over the goalkeeper's head and into the net.

The Spartans continued to dominate in the second half. Casey Fitzgerald scored her first goal of the season at the 37-minute mark to give Castleton a 2-0 lead.

"We are slowly coming together as a team. We have many young players and we even have five starters who are freshman, but for sure, we are still improving," assistant coach Phil Pittelli said after the loss against U. Maine.

"We worked on a lot of first touch on the ball during practice and I think that helped us with the possession of the ball during the game," said Tracy Stala; who contributed the win with 2 goals and 2 assists against Mass. Liberal Arts. "We have three great coaches who put together the team. They will make our team strong as a season goes by."



Something pretty amazing is close to happening that Vermont and New Hampshire residents alike should be awful proud of.

His name is David Ball. Never heard of him?

That's ok, most of the nation hasn't. But this 6-foot-2-inch receiver for the University of New Hampshire is one touchdown reception away from breaking Jerry Rice's all time receiving touchdown record for Division I AA college football.

Yes, the Jerry Rice that played in the NFL for 20 years, making 13 Pro Bowls. The same Jerry Rice that won three Super Bowl rings. The man that holds the NFL all time touchdown and receiving yards records, and is arguably the best receiver to ever play the game.

And now, 22 years after Rice graduated from Mississippi Valley State, with 50 touchdowns, Ball, from Orange, Vt., which has just 965 total residents, is one touchdown away from breaking Rice's record.

Four years ago the 22-year-old Ball was recruited by UNH as a high jumper, and was a walk-on to the UNH football team. His 37-inch vertical jump has helped him on the gridiron just as much as with the track team - which he still does at a varsity level as well - jumping over receiver's grasps to bring down pass after pass. Fifty touchdowns later, and he is attracting NFL scouts to little Cowell Stadium in Durham, New Hampshire, which seats only 6,500.

Ball slid under the radar of college recruiting programs as most Vt. high school football players do. At Spaulding High School, he played division II football, along with basketball and track. The school was a consistent loser on the football field.

Now, thanks in large part to Ball, UNH is ranked first in the Atlantic 10 conference. On Sept. 23, UNH (3-0) rolled over Dartmouth 56-14, in a game that Ball caught three touchdowns in the first half, the last one tying Rice's record. Ball may have broken the record that same game if it had not been a blowout that led his coach to have him sit out the majority of the second half.

With nine games remaining in the regular season, Ball will break Rice's record, whether it comes this weekend at Delaware, or the next against Richmond.

I'm not going to even begin drawing conclusions about where he is in comparison to Rice, but I do think that he is someone that all football fans should, and soon will, know about.

After the season is over, Ball will get drafted, although probably not in the first two rounds because of where he goes to school. But as Rice showed us 22 years ago, anything can happen once a player makes it to the NFL.

What Ball has done is given kids in Vermont and other states with overlooked sports programs, a hope of what they can become.

Reeling in his dream

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

After years of hard work and determination, Christopher Adams had an opportunity last week to get closer to his goal of becoming a professional bass fisherman.

Adams, a 22-year-old sophomore at Castleton State College, qualified to compete on the 12-man Vermont Bass Federation State Team by defeating hundreds of other fishermen in the state. The team was formed to represent Vermont in the annual B.A.S.S. Eastern Regional tournament on Lake Champlain last week.

Since the tournament and his classes created a conflict, Adams made an important decision to sacrifice a week of school to compete on the Vermont state team.

"It really was a no-brainer for me to choose to compete in the regional," Adams said confidently. "This is an once-in-a-lifetime deal and I did not want to miss out on an opportunity to make connections within the sport."

To pave the way for his absence, Chris sent an email to his professors, letting them know about his decision to miss one week of classes.

"My professors were really supportive of me," he said. "They knew this was something I had to do."

Like Father, Like Son

Adams learned the sport of bass fishing from his father, Don, who has been an avid fisherman for more than 20 years.

Fishing with his father since an early age helped him gradually improve, Adams said.

He started competitive fishing tournaments at the age of 13 and has been successful at both the state and regional levels.

"Once I began to compete in bass fishing tournaments and realized my potential in the sport, I knew it was something I wanted to do," he said.

Don Adams said he was very impressed by the early development of his son's fishing skills.

"Chris has a natural talent. It took me ten years to have a complete understanding of the sport, while he only needed three years," Don said. "He has this ability to achieve to the maximum degree, and I believe that he will be better than me very soon."

Throughout the summer, Chris fished twice a week on Lake Champlain, scouting out areas in preparation for the Eastern Regional tournament.

"I am very confident when fishing at my home lake," he said with a smile. "It's important to have great knowledge of the lake you're fishing on, and I hope to use that to my advantage."

The Big Week

Both Chris and his father Don competed on the Vermont state team at the Eastern Regional tournament last week.

"The fact that we both made the team was very special for me," Don said. "It made me proud that Chris was one of the 12 men on the team because he is the youngest competitor in the tournament."

The tournament consisted of both an individual and team competition. The winning state team receives $10,000 toward the state's respective organization, and the top fishermen of the tournament from each state advance to January's National Championship.

The three-day practice period started on Sunday, allowing competitors to get ready before the tournament began on Wednesday. Chris seemed to have no luck catching fish on the first day of competition, but he kept his cool and finished with a three day total of 17 pounds from the eight fish he caught.

Chris placed in 85th out of the 95 fishermen in the tournament, and is slated to compete for the Vermont State team in next year's Eastern regional. Don Adams finished in 79th place with a three day total of 21 pounds of fish.

The Vermont team, however, finished the tournament in fourth place overall, and were behind first-place Massachusetts by 34 pounds of fish.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CHRISTOPHER ADAMS

Castleton Sophmore Chris Adams displays two bass he caught.

What Lies Ahead

In a sport that is usually dominated by males over the age of 30, Chris Adams is trying to break through at a young age.

"Catching the eye of sponsors is very important in this sport," he said. I plan to pursue a career in the fishing industry in some form after college, and being noticed by the major companies is beneficial down the road."

While Chris is making his mark in competitive bass fishing, he will also be trying out for the Castleton State hockey team.

"One of my main goals is to represent Castleton State College and the men's ice hockey team to the best of my ability," he said.

Adams is currently undecided about his major, but he takes mostly communications and sports administration classes.

He said he hopes to gain knowledge about both fields, which he said can help him break into the bass fishing business.

"It could be writing for a fishing magazine, working for a fishing equipment company in marketing or sales, or simply competing as a professional fisherman and trying to represent any sponsorship companies I may receive to the best of my ability."

Lyons leading Spartans to 2-1 NAC record

Cass Lyons

By Shannon Scirla
Spartan Staff

Cass Lyons or God? Trick question? According to Matt Murphy, former teammate at North Country High School and Castleton State College roommate, on the soccer field Cass Lyons is God.

If you attended any Castleton soccer game last year, you definitely saw Lyons play. Known around campus as, "Bubs," the then-freshman sweeper played every minute of every game last year.

Lyons played full back in high school, but excelled at his new position and has remained there. Lyons described switching positions as, "a new challenge and way to make myself work harder."

Lyons was recruited by Spartans head coach John Werner at Vermont Soccer School when Cass was a senior in high school and still living at his home in Derby, Vermont. Werner says he was very lucky to get Lyons here, saying he is extremely coachable.

Werner says he loves having Lyons on his side of the green because of his willingness to do whatever the team needs. Werner believes that Lyons can play 90 minutes a game against any NAC team.

"Cass is very competitive and doesn't get riled," said Warner.

Lyons had a superb track record coming out of high school.

First team all-county, first team all-metro, first team all-state, Burlington Free Press elite 11, Twin State team, and he led the North Country Falcons to the final four his senior year before falling to Mount Mansfield Union.

A sports administration major, Lyons says his biggest soccer accomplishment was being selected to play on the Twin State game his senior year, where the best high school players from Vermont square off against the best from New Hampshire.

Lyons said the Spartans have a real good shot at winning the NAC championship this season.

"We have a young team, but a lot of talent," said Lyons.

Even though Lyons has personally been extremely successful in college, he says that he continues to set goals for his team.

"I want to get into the NCAA tournament and advance," says Lyons.

Lyons statement might be an eye popper for many because of the size of Castleton, but his goal isn't to far from a reality.

The team earned an at-large bid to play in the ECAC New England Regional Tournament where they were defeated in the first round by eventual champion Rhode Island College.

After college, Lyons plans to be an athletic director at a high school in Vermont.

"Before I hang up the cleats I have to leave this program on top," said Lyons.

The Spartan men currently sport a 4-5 overall record, but with a 2-1 mark in the NAC.

They are coming off a 2-1 win against Thomas College and will play again today against Massachusetts Liberal Arts College.

Volleyball team rolling

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

While the outdoor sports usually steal the thunder in the fall, the Castleton volleyball team is quietly having quite a season.

Led by second-year head coach Robert "Kip" Dalury, the Spartans are already making critics forget about last year's disastrous 2-13 record and have a chance to contend for the conference title. Most of the women on the team are seniors, giving Dalury an experienced squad.

Castleton had a record of 5-3 going into last week's games, all road games.

In the first game against Lyndon State, they lost two of the first three sets of the game. But led by the freshmen attack of Jamie Lemieux and Samantha Grisso, the Spartans won the final two sets for a 3-2 victory. Lemieux had 25 kills and six aces, while Grisso had 31 assists, eight kills and seven aces in a winning effort.

After the comeback win against Lyndon, the Spartan women traveled to Bay Path College to face both Bay Path and Lesley College.

In the first match-up, after the teams split the first two sets, the Spartans finally got in their groove and won the next two sets 30-27 and 30-23, giving them another win.

Castleton would lose their momentum during the second game of the day against Lesley.

From the start of the game, the Spartans seemed to be fatigued from playing moments earlier and were swept 3-0.

The Castleton volleyball team now has a record of 7-4.

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THE SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, October 18, 2006

Paramount hosts feisty congressional forum

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

RUTLAND, VT - Vermonters of all ages gathered in Rutland on Oct. 12 to witness a political event that held all the feverish fury of a heavyweight title fight.

Senate candidates Bernie Sanders and Rich Tarrant squared off at the Paramount Theater to take part in a political debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Vermont. Also attending were House of Representatives candidates Peter Welch and Martha Rainville.

Hundreds of people, including many who were barely old enough to dissect frogs in high school biology classes, crowded into the theater in anticipation of what was rumored to be an extremely heated debate.

"I hope there isn't a riot," one high school student said, as she adjusted her red "Bernie for U.S. Senate" pin on her jacket. The four candidates debated for nearly two hours and focused on issues ranging from the current nuclear standoff with North Korea, to the delicate position America has been forced into since 9/11.

"I think we were right to go into Afghanistan, but wrong to go into Iraq," Democrat Peter Welch said. He also blamed President Bush's "go-in-alone" policy for much of the world's lack of faith in America.

Sanders went on to further Welch's argument.

"George W. Bush is the worst president in the history of this country," the Independent candidate said, amidst the sound of mostly thunderous cheers.

One man in the crowd then yelled to Sanders, calling him a "socialist" and telling him to have respect for the president of the United States.

Sanders fired back like a shotgun, asking how America could respect a president who didn't respect the civil liberties of his own people.

Please see **FIESTY,** *PAGE 6*

PHOTO BY TERRY BADMAN

Candidates for US Congress gather at the Paramount Theater in Rutland.

Students beware: Illegal music downloading can cause trouble

By Shannon Sciria
Spartan Staff

There are many things in life that are free, but several Castleton State College students found out recently that music isn't one of them.

On Sept. 20, Information Technology officials sent out a campus wide e-mail stating that Castleton students are not to download any music from Internet sources like Lime Wire, Bare Share or Napster.

This e-mail was sent out after numerous students were caught downloading music on the school's Internet service.

"We knew it started to become a problem because we were getting notified by the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of Amnerica)," said Gayle Malinowski, chief technology officer for I.T. services at Castleton.

The students, whose names were not released, did not get their computers taken away but did get them taken off the system until they were notified that their actions were not only against school policy, but also against the law.

"The first time a student is caught, we just like to bring them in, look at their files and get them removed, but after numerous times we turn it over to school officials," said Malinowski, who has been at Castleton for 11 years.

Malinowski described the device that tracks student's actions on the Internet as a box that sits on the network and records.

According to the Journal of Law Economics, since downloading music on the Internet became available, the average amount of money per year spent on CD's in the United States each year has dropped $25 million.

"I download music illegally all the time," said Jessee Maranda, a sophomore at Castleton State College. Maranda said his favorite site to use is Lime Wire describing it as a site that works on campus sometimes and gets blocked by the school other times.

But illegal downloading is not just a Castleton problem.

Officials at Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, N.H. say they also have their hands full with students pulling music from the Web.

Marion Stone, the systems administrator for Franklin Pierce, described the issue as an ongoing battle that both sides will never totally win. Stone is aware that every time the school blocks one site, two more are developed on the Web that students will find.

Joe Fagella, a senior at Franklin Pierce College, said he uses the school's Internet to download new tunes saying that when the school doesn't block the site it works really fast because it's not dial up on campus.

"It takes me about 10 minutes to download one song at home and about two minutes at school, you would be stupid to not take advantage of that," Fagella said during a telephone interview.

In September 2006, RIAA President Cary H. Sherman told the University of Delaware that while more than 140 colleges have subscribed to legal downloading services, many colleges have not done enough to discourage students from illegally downloading music.

The RIAA sent 700 letters to college campuses across the country last month warning the colleges and students who engage in these illegal activities will be sued for their actions.

"Music is an artist's work; they deserve to be paid for it. To me if you have someone's work without paying for it, that's stealing," said Franklin Pierce Professor Patricia Moore. Moore said she feels very strongly about the issue and said she hears about students downloading music on a daily basis.

One of Moore's classes is the History of Art, where they directly deal with music and what direction it's headed in.

"You wouldn't walk into a gift shop and steal a painting, so why would anyone steal music off the Internet?" said Moore.

Ben Killary, a sophomore at Castleton State College, said his illegal downloading has gone way down since he's discovered I-Tunes. I-Tunes is a network that allows students to share each others' music from their computer without downloading anything.

Unfortunately I-Tunes are only able to be shared with those who live in the same building. And even then, some students put passwords and blocks to prevent others from accessing their tunes.

"If the schools really wanted to put an end to this they would meet us half way and fix all the blocks on I-Tunes," said Killary, in his Haskell Hall room last week.

If Castleton is trying to find ways to crack down on illegal downloading it's doing so without the help of the Public Safety Department. Greg Dwyer, a senior at Castleton State and a public safety officer, said there are no regulations for catching a student downloading music illegally.

The biggest fear for people like Malinowski is what could happen if this issue gets bigger.

"We just don't want to get sued by the RIAA, and we never know what they are going to do," said Malinowski.

Former Castleton student wins AP award

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

TJ Hooker is emotional during talk with Newsgathering class.

The following story is a compilation from students in Professor David Blow's Newsgathering and Writing class.

Former Castleton State College student T.J. Hooker held an expression of sadness as his photograph of sheet-covered bodies was shown on the large screen behind him.

The photograph showed a police officer kneeling, overcome by grief, behind a few of the elderly victims of the Ethan Allen tour boat accident on Lake George, N.Y. that killed 20 people last fall.

Hooker, a 25-year-old 2004 graduate, recently re-told the story of that day to Professor David Blow's Newsgathering and Writing class as part of an interviewing exercise.

He told students how when the initial police call came over the scanner, it mentioned three people in the water, leading him to believe it was a canoe that had flipped, and that he'd be photographing soggy - but rescued paddlers.

When he got to the lake and saw the sheet-covered bodies, however, he said he knew it was much worse.

"I wasn't really prepared for what I was going to see. I looked up and there was this lawn full of bodies," he said. "It was a shock. It was like being punched in the stomach."

After collecting himself and changing lenses, Hooker was able to snap two quick images before he was ushered from the area by police.

The one photograph, showing the officer and the sheet-covered bodies, went out on the Associated Press wire and was shown on front pages across the world - from Los Angeles to London. It also won Hooker the Associated Press' Bruce Cromie award for spot news photography.

But his road to minor photojournalism fame has been bumpy.

During his hour-long discussion with students, Hooker talked about being shunned by The Rutland Herald, whose editors said he needed more expe-

Please see **TJ,** *PAGE 6*

CORRECTION

In last issue's story about Mount Zion it was reported that an individual camped on the mountain for a weekend. While factual, the owner of the property Kit Davidson stresses that any individuals caught camping on any of the 420 acre mountain will be prosecuted to protect the land.

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COMING NEXT ISSUE

Castleton Ink: Dawson Raspuzzi takes a look at student's tattoos.

Life after Kappa: Family settles into former fraternity house.

I've got too much stuff on my hands

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

It finally happened.

Today was the inevitable day that I arrived at some sort of epiphany - an apocalyptic brain-fart of self-realization, if you will.

Today college, for me at least, became exactly what everyone said it would when I was a young and chipper freshman.

New Jersey.

(You can call it "hell" if you'd like, though)

Don't get me wrong, I've taken my collegiate career very seriously these last few years. I don't like missing classes, I hate turning in assignments late, and I think Professor Thomas is a saint for busting my balls so thoroughly in English class for the last four semesters.

College has been challenging, it has never been Pop-Tart easy; but it had never become a burden until recently.

Lately it seems as if Keith Richards somehow managed to snort up all of the world's free time (he is going to live forever, you know).

Any free time I have, and between work and school there isn't much, is spent wishing I had more if it. Free time has become to me what Madonna's nude scenes have become to films - rare and entirely unexciting.

Is there one quick fix for this growing trend of overworked and under-paid college students? How can we be expected to do well academically when we're also expected to spend the vast majority of our week working in the rat race?

It's a stressful thought, to say the least. Perhaps the only alternative is to be fortunate enough to be born with a silver spoon in one hand and daddy's wallet in the other. But to quote Creedence, "I'm no fortunate son."

I suppose it's just the price we have to pay these days. I don't really want to go through the college experience having avoided all the actual realities of the world we live in. You learn more dancing in fire than you do sleeping with supermodels (so I heard, anyway).

Despite how bad everything might seem in terms of stress, it could be much worse - we could be Vanilla Ice.

But we're not. We're the new breed of collegiate scholars. Sure, our GPA's might be a little lower than some, but we're also gaining valuable life experience.

We're already leaps and bounds ahead of our spoon-fed peers and their pimped-out Civics.

We're ready for a life of paying for electricity, financing cars, and hunting for the one can of unspoiled Chef Boyardee at the local discount food store.

We just gotta keep on keepin' on, and cling to the possibility that one day - one day- our college degree will bag us a career we might actually enjoy.

Christ, I sure hope it does.

Letters to the Editor

In response to "Here man, smoke this"

Dear Spartan Staff

I am writing in reference to a recent article entitled: "Here Mr. Smoke This", written by Brad Waterhouse. I would like to respond to Mr. Waterhouse by saying that coming from a law enforcement family, and as a criminal justice student, police officers do not conduct motor vehicle stops on American citizens such as Willie Nelson because it is a "easy catch". It seems as if Mr. Waterhouse supports the illegal use of narcotics judging by his comment of "I wonder if Bernie ever rips it up with Willie? He gets my vote". I know that students here at Castleton tend to have the liberal mindset on political issues, however using illegal narcotics is still a crime in this country. People seem to think that police officers have nothing better to do than conduct traffic stops, and solve crimes such as murder, robbery, etc. However, crimes such as these are often difficult for police officers to solve, which is why police departments have detectives for example. It would be a nice change for this college to focus more from the liberal mindset of "peace and happiness for all" to punishing those who commit crimes.

Thanks for your time,
Adam Belville

Reflection of Sexual Assault Reported Article

I am writing to you to thank you for following up with the school administration about this assault prior to printing. I've decided to write you because as a CA I wanted you to know that I have already had some students stating that they will no longer park their vehicles in the South Street lot (Africa) because they don't want this to ever happen to them. I know the school has further plans to improve the South St. lot, but once again another negative issue involving that lot has risen. I know the administration has stated, "That the parking lot didn't cause this incident", but it disturbs me and others that we have a location on campus in which students don't feel safe. You should feel safe wherever you are on this campus. Thank you again for you hard work within The Spartan.

Community Advisor,
Joe Zeitler

Have something to say?

Contact *The Spartan* at thespartan@castleton.edu, or call Ext. 6067.

From the 'net

By Betsy Parks
Spartan Staff

It's mid October - it's go time. It's time to start getting serious about that mid-term paper you have to write.

It's time to get your group members together and brainstorm about your final project. It's time to start researching that thesis or time to get serious about the Praxis exam. It's go time around the Spartan office too.

For instance, I have a Web site on my hands - (castletonspartan.com) and at least 200 people check it out every day (according to our tracking statistics). So I wonder if any of your stories about how you cope with a group project, cram for that Spanish exam or come up with a great marketing proposal would be worth telling to our online readers.

You see, today (Wednesday, Oct. 18), we are launching the first of some of our new online-only features titled "Spartan Snapshots," which are stories about Castleton State College - written by you.

To be a good sport (and so you know I'm serious) I wrote the first one, so go to the online-only section of castletonspartan.com and check it out.

Now, since I'm a non-traditional, part-time student, you can imagine that I had a hard time coming up with a good idea for a story - but I did it.

That makes me think that there has to be some great stories out there from all of you who live and work here.

Did you ever play for a team that overcame the odds for a surprise victory?

Did you struggle and struggle with a subject you hated, but somehow made it through?

Did something funny happen on the way to class the other day?

We want to read about it!

Email your submission to us with the subject 'Spartan Snapshots' at castletonspartan@castleton.edu.

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Not all change is good

By Bradford Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

Fall in Vermont is gorgeous. I'm sure I don't have to tell you that, but every time I look out my window I get the urge to say it. And it isn't only the feeling of walking through a forest aflame that makes it so gorgeous, it's also the change.

For months everything has been green, muggy, hot and sunny. Then mid-September hits and it's like summer never happened. School starts again, there are holidays to look forward to, and though the trees are dying it feels like the beginning of something. A new start.

Change is inevitable, whether it's natural like fall or forced by man like the razing of old buildings to lay down shopping centers. It can be either bad or good, depending on how you look at things, but for the most part I enjoy it. At the very least there's something new to experience. I've felt that way for a long time, but something happened last weekend that made me re-examine my idea of change.

My mom and I drove down to Massachusetts to spend some time with my grandmother and her boyfriend, Dwight. Since the women were going shopping, Dwight decided to take me over the border to Rhode Island to a casino called Lincoln Park. It had been solely a dog racing track a few years back and the casino was being built around it. I had never been to a casino or a dog race and didn't consider myself a betting man, by any standard, but since it was new I knew I'd enjoy myself.

Dog racing is something that Dwight had been into for years and for the full 30 minutes it took to get there I got a crash course in the art of betting on dog racing. And it is an art. So many factors go into placing a bet on a dog. For example: if the dog in starting box three - towards the inside - likes to run on the outside, and the dogs in boxes four and five like to run on the inside, you can count those three dogs out because they'll probably run into each other trying to get to where they excel.

By the time we got there Dwight had me more excited about seeing the dogs than the actual casino. The building was huge; shabby looking because of the construction but still impressive. I could see the stories-high wall of glass that looked out onto the dog track from where we were walking, but it soon went out of view behind the high orange walls of the main building.

Once inside I learned that this casino was exclusive. There were no card tables and the only way to gamble here was slot machines. Not the coin-operated, coin spewing, pull-on-the-lever machines of old, but high-tech slots. These machines were all computerized, with video screens showing the bars. Paper money was put into the machines to play and receipts were given when something was won. There were rooms -huge rooms - filled with lines and lines of machines, dozens of kinds. Some had medieval themes, others fishing or animals.

We sat down and started playing, moving when we felt a machine was treating us badly. After winning $80 I finally began to lose money so we headed for the track. The noise and lights of the game rooms were a bit overwhelming and it seemed like everywhere I sat there was a 70-year old woman, bent over, hands trembling with age, chain smoking directly into my face. One can only handle so much of that.

The door to the track seemed hidden on purpose, snuggled between the end of a bar and a Dunkin' Donuts stand. There was no sign and only a small window in the door to show you where you're going.

There are no windows in any of the rooms of the casino, making the light streaming in from the track seem alien. The room is massive, with the entire front wall taken up by the viewing window and the rest of the room set up like a stadium, seats all the way up and down. Each seat is set up like a desk, with a place in front of you to set your program and drinks, and a flat-screen monitor to see the track up close.

As we sat waiting for the next race to begin, I watched the people sitting around me. Not nearly as many as had been playing the slots and the age range was narrow. College students to grandmothers played the slots. Everyone in this room looked older than 50, many in jackets, hats and sunglasses. They all looked like betting men. The room itself looked old, even though half of it was under "renovation".

As I watched the old-timers walk by with their betting slips, I realized that once the rest of the casino was finished, it was only a matter of time before this room is converted into more slots.

And then the dogs started to run. Muscled, sleek, beautiful animals. Eight of them at a time, dirt exploding under their paws like mini landmines, their legs coming together with each stride in almost mechanical precision. While they ran, I almost forgot they were animals. They looked too perfect. Only when they finished and grouped around their handlers, tails wagging with excitement no matter what place they came in, did they look like regular dogs again.

After four races we left, walking back into the neon and noise of the slot machines, the slot machines that 30 minutes before had seemed fine. Now they seemed like a replacement for the dog races which were slowly passing their prime.

Not that electronic slot machines are inherently bad. Mindless entertainment has its place. I've never been one to turn down a game of Halo. It's when mindless entertainment takes the place of something as involved and beautiful as dog racing that it becomes irritating. It takes intelligence, skill, experience and a gift to consistently bet well in dog racing. Anyone with fingers can push a button.

As we walked outside to the car I glanced up at the trees, blazing bright oranges, reds and yellows, dying for the snows and growing back green and full in the spring. Change can be a beautiful thing and those colors reminded me of that. But the dinging of the bell to signal the next race as we walked off reminded me of something else: that change can be ugly, knowing that if I visit again I might not have an opportunity to see those dogs. All I'll have are the slots.

Need change?

PHOTO BY JEREMIAH BEHNKEN

Amanda Beattie deposits quarters into a campus washing machine.

By Jeremiah Behnken
Spartan contributor

Amanda Beattie of Haskell Hall slips quarters into the washer like every other student living on campus does. And, like all residents, she always has to make sure she has enough quarters to actually finish her laundry, which can be tough at Castleton State College.

For each load of laundry, a student needs a total of five quarters - which, on a campus with no change machines is what gold is to pirates.

Students sometimes have trouble having enough quarters to do even a load in the washer, and there is always the possibility of losing quarters in the machines and having to scrounge around for more.

So why aren't there any change machines?

According to Dennis Proulx, director of Residence Life, this topic was researched by the Student Association two years ago.

"They found that the cost of a machine to purchase is very high," Proulx said, "and the ongoing labor it takes to replace quarters is expensive.

"In addition, the liability of having a machine with that much money is high."

It is common for students, when they are low on quarters, to ask to exchange their dollars at Fireside or Huden. But students have found that the Fireside workers don't seem to like giving their quarters away.

"They snarled at me the last time I asked," said student Matthew Sargent.

So, despite the cost, are change machines a need here on campus?

"My personal opinion is that they could be useful, but not a necessity," said Seth Tuper, a senior and resident of Babcock Hall, "because you can put a dollar bill into a soda machine to get quarters."

Other students agreed, saying students can always go to nearby businesses for change.

"People don't realize they can walk down to the Castleton Store," adds Jen Manning, a junior.

But Manning also says a change machine could be very helpful.

"It'd be a good idea because if someone had to do laundry at 4 a.m., it would be a lot easier to get change," she said.

But freshman Jazmin Averbuck said she believes it would be great to have machines on campus.

"I think it would help a lot of people because I don't like having a bunch of quarters lying around my room for people to take," Averbuck said. "When I need to do laundry, no one wants to change quarters for a dollar because they can't get any more."

Proulx does think that having change machines on campus would be a great idea, but he knows that it could cost the school.

"Right now, it's not worth the expense to get one for us, and the vendors it would support are not able to provide one either," he said. "It's not just the initial cost of the machine, but the cost of insuring its safety and the costs of replacing the quarters that puts it out of reach."

According to Proulx, when the Student Association researched this topic, they found that the cost to purchase a change machine would be between $2,000 and $4,000. He said a machine may be able to be acquired for as little as $500, but costs go up depending on the level of security needed for the machine and the amount of coins it would hold before needing to be refilled.

"The Student Association's plan, at the time, was to have the machine in a public area with 24-hour access, which would demand a machine of some quality," he added.

Because of the cost, Proulx said that it's very unlikely change machines will be appearing on campus any time in the near or distant future.

Luckily, there is a bank just a short walk away from campus that will give you quarters for your dollars, so students will just have to stock up.

State sentate hopefuls debate about the future of higher education

PHOTO BY ENNIS DULING

State senate candidates debate in Herrick Auditorium.

By Jazmin Averbuck
Spartan Staff

Many students walked past the Stafford Academic Center on Oct. 5 completely oblivious to the event taking place through the doors of Herrick Auditorium.

Although many community members and Castleton College officials were in attendance, only a handful of students attended the Rutland County State Senate Forum to hear candidates for three seats answer the question: "Do you support higher education in Vermont?"

First to answer was democratic candidate, Joseph Tilden. As a native of Rutland and graduate of Castleton State College, class of 1966, Tilden said he believes that "higher education is seriously underfunded."

His main proposal is to decrease the budgets of public schools k-12 from the current $1.2 billion to $700 or $800 million, and then use the extra revenue to increase the Vermont State Colleges budget.

To Tilden's right, Bill Carris was the second to answer. Carris, a New Hampshire born democrat, said he strongly agrees with his fellow Democrat that "education is a value" and that "every person should get a higher education."

But in the 10 minutes he spoke, he failed to explain how he planned to help every person get a higher education while in office.

The third democratic candidate for Rutland County, Hope Bulcher, was unable to attend the forum.

The Republican incumbents, hoping to retain their seats in November, went next.

Wendy Wilton, born in Burlington, was first to answer Castleton State College President David Wolk's question: "Do you support higher education in Vermont?"

Wilton expressed the need to "invest" in Vermont by using additional unexpected tobacco monies. This money, equaling $175 million over a 10-year period, would be placed in a scholarship fund, which would allow more than 3,600 Vermont students to receive $5,000 each year.

This program was opposed by legislation last session and funds were given to the Medicaid budget instead.

Wilton said if elected, she'll fight hard to get the scholarship program implemented.

Incumbent Kevin Mullin, the second Republican to speak, started by saying, "the fight continues for higher education." Rutland native who worked as a busboy and usher to pay for his college, he also promised a scholarship program for Vermont Students.

Connecticut-raised Hull Maynard explained to those in attendance how he "can't get yanked in one direction" by those with varied ideas on higher education in Vermont.

Maynard had no opinion on what should be done to help fund Vermont State Colleges, spending much of his time reiterating past accomplishments like raising VSAC's budget by 4 percent and putting in effect a law that mandates if any state tax exceeds 125 percent, the proceeds go to higher education. He did not discuss any new plan for additional funding.

After their statements, one gentleman in attendance asked the panel what they would cut from the existing budget?

Maynard said he would shave the number of superintendents in Rutland County public schools k-12 from the present 63 to about 16.

Mullin said he would create more efficiencies and Wilton expressed her desire to decrease the Medicaid budget and use the money saved to invest in Vermont State Colleges.

Carris said he would use the unused money from energy savings, group buying, and sharing of resources between schools to fund Vermont State Colleges.

Dispatch from a world away: Sinking into the Spanish culture

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY KRISTINA COLLINS

Ariel Delaney hangs out near the Cathedral Cliffs that fisherman say look like a church from the sea.

By Kristina Collins
Spartan Staff

After two months of classes, we're getting pretty comfortable. We still get the occasional, "You're not from here," but it's all good.

Students are fairly cold and distant, but just like anywhere, once you get to know people, they open up. One professor even said that the students are more afraid of us than we are of them.

We just finished midterm week, which was an utter joy. Because it is such a big university, you enter the exam with your ID card, and the test lector checks off your mug shot on his roll sheet.

Being a student is pretty much the same on campus. Our history professor made that clear the other day when he announced, "This isn't a democracy, it's a university."

It really wasn't his fault. The classes last two hours, and a majority of the students whine for a break every 15 minutes.

After this announcement, the professor asked us to pronounce "Lackawana," the name of an American Civil War ship that we sold to Perú in the nineteenth century. In order to say it like Ariel and I did, he held his nose and repeated. Now Lackawana is a very popular word around here.

I'm always amazed at how many people speak English, and very well. If not, the majority speak Spanglish.

Every building, street and neighborhood has a "watchaman" as they say, otherwise known as security guard, who generally has a lot of time to rest. These guys are everywhere. They all have the same uniform and it gets to the point where I feel like I'm lost because I see a different guard everywhere.

Speaking of which, getting lost is my specialty, but I have not done that in a while now. It's all about listening to the places that the bus helper screams out the door as they pass you. We're getting quicker everyday.

What does shock us is that animals are not very respected here. Most family dogs live on the roof or the street. We went to the Jockey Club, which is also a horse racetrack, where there was a celebration for World Animal Day on Oct. 4. Although there were no more than fifty people, we met a few animal activists who are fighting for the cause.

One, whose main fight is to ban bullfighting and cock fighting in Perú, told us that there are only six countries in the world that allow this under the protection of cultural preservation. PETA and the ASPCA are slowly having an effect on this cause and pet education.

We're also seeing this theme in Peruvian movies that limeños, or people from Lima, are not like the rest of the country. This is city life. It's great to meet the mix of people, but it's also competitive city life, so adapting can be difficult. I hope that I'm at least faking it well.

It's Tuesday, Oct. 3 and I'm thinking about October break.

It's our first "vacation" this year at CSC.

For first year students, it is our first college break ever. Exciting, huh?

I, personally, am torn. I'm worried that this time off won't aid me, but hinder me.

Besides the fact that I am freaked out by a few papers I have to finish in that week of time, it makes me wonder if I will want to come back!

This isn't because I dislike the school, teachers, or other students; it is just easier to be home. I am comfortable there, especially since I grew up in the house I'm headed back to.

I have many friends back home, and a boyfriend. So why would I want to return to a place where I'm still new, and still unsure of how the year will unfold? I'm completely enthused to stay at home for more than two days, like I have been doing each weekend.

Having this time off is a good idea, and also a bad one. We'll see what happens as the week unfolds.

It's now Tuesday, Oct. 10.

We're about half-way through our vacation. Just as expected, I am having a great time hanging with everyone at home. I want to stay here, because it is what I know.

I also know that when I go back to school I will be faced with mid-terms, term papers, and a plethora of other assignments. Being here reminds me of what lies ahead of me.

Like everyone else I'm sure, my time has consisted of bumming around the house, and going out with my friends. Maybe some other students were convicted enough to work at their school tasks.

But not me.

I just barely took a look at the work I am supposed to have done. I understand teachers can't afford a lot of time for us to miss work, but what is the point of a vacation if all we do is worry about papers we have to get done?

There is so much I want to do, so many people I feel like I need to see. School stuff has been put on the back burner.

Procrastinating is a student's best friend, and their worst nightmare. Denial is the key though. Maybe if I continue to convince myself I have all the time in the world, it will happen. Here's to hoping this plan will work.

So now it's Thursday, Oct. 12 -- already. It's nearing the end of vacation and what have I done?

A big resounding nothing.

Guess I better start up on that, huh? I planned to work on my stuff earlier, but other things got in the way. I know I'm completely screwed at this point, and am going to have to cram all my work in. It's worth it. I fell so comfortably back into my life here.

This is me not wanting to leave. I knew this would happen. I want to go back to school because I enjoy my friends and classes, but there's that whole work factor. I kind of forgot about it because I was caught up in everything else.

I'll survive, I suppose.

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What are you waiting for?

One small country town- one big gas price battle

By Matthew Sargent
Spartan Contributor

With a large yellow sign reading "gas sale today" out front every day, the Castleton Village Store's single double-sided gas pump always has customers pumping.

But Mary Briggs' blood was pumping as well on a recent day when she waited in her idling late model VW Passat for more than eight minutes for the car ahead of her to finish pumping.

"It's still worth the wait," the West Rutland resident said "The gas here is like 10 cents cheaper than the other places, and that's on their gas sale days."

The price for the lowest grade gas at the Castleton Village store has been just under $2.40 two weeks ago, and shows signs of going down even further in the near future, a cashier said.

The price as of Monday was in the $2.20 range.

No more than three miles down the road, three other competing gas stations are located within shouting distance of each other.

Castleton Coastal puts up a good fight with the Castleton Village Store, matching prices for low grade gas on many days.

The pumps, however, seemed a little less busy on this day. Jerry Owens, a delivery driver for a glass company out Whitehall, N.Y., said he stops at Castleton Coastal because "they don't just have good service, they're the only one of the Castleton gas stations with diesel, and it's cheap at that."

When asked what brings people to his Castleton Four Corner's Deli, store owner Timothy Keller quickly stated, "I make people laugh, that's why they come here."

His family-run Citgo station shows uninterrupted business daily and has gas sales every Monday. But the gas isn't the only reason customers prefer the Citgo station.

Keller's wife said their deli makes some of the best sandwiches in the area, and have some people that come in for lunch on an almost daily basis.

When Keller was asked why the Castleton Village Store's prices were so much cheaper, he said "the guy who runs the Village store is a snake, and gas is all he has."

John Rehlen, the owner of the Castleton Village Store, said he is aware of Keller's opinion of him and he had similar derogatory comments about him.

The Exxon station across Route 30 from Keller's store shows signs of bigger business and a worker there claimed to be far too busy to compare prices.

However, with an almost mirrored image of the Citgo's marquee, gas prices were exactly the same on this day and the Exxon station follows the Citgo station by having gas sales every Tuesday.

Asked why anyone would prefer the Exxon station, customer Rich Thomas had a quick answer.

"It's because they carry Dunkin Donuts, all you need is Dunkin Donuts," he said. "Forget gas prices."

"Where I come from you don't hear of gas sales. Gas sale? What the hell is that?" said an Exxon cashier from Rhode Island.

He finished by saying "if you didn't like the price go somewhere else!"

PHOTO BY ALEX JENSEN
Signs advertise gas sale

PHOTO BY ALEX JENSON
The intersection at Castleton Corners displays competitive gas prices.

Cherish life's simple things

Imagine what life would be like if you couldn't do such simple things as brush your own teeth and hair, get yourself a glass of water or drive a car.

Taking a shower, tying your own shoes and going swimming on a hot summer day are things we take for granted. Imagine if those things were taken from you, everything you knew, and everything familiar in life was gone. Imagine you had to change everything about your life.

Five years ago a car accident stole so many simple things we take for granted from my sister, Jamie. She is now paralyzed. She can't move her legs; she has use of her left arm, but not her fingers. She is a quadriplegic.

A split second is all it took for Jamie's life and the lives of my family members to be changed forever.

Things have gotten a little easier in the past five years, well, maybe I shouldn't say easier, but routine. We have accepted now that this happened, which allows us to move on with life. We take each day as it comes never really knowing what will happen next.

Medical complications like surgeries and infections cause regular visits to the hospital and there are numerous doctors' appointments every week. Every weekday, healthcare aids come to care for my sister. They help get her showered, dressed, into her chair, fed, and various other tasks. When the aids are not around my parents do everything that needs to be done.

Three times a day, Jamie takes numerous different pills. I am not sure what they all are for but I know some are for pain and others antidepressants. They help Jamie cope with all that has happened.

I couldn't deal with what she has to go through every day. But unlike many I can't just forget what she has to go through. I see it almost every day.

At first Jamie's eyes were full of pain and anger. That anger and pain is still there, but is shielded by optimism. Even with all the setbacks of bed sores, pneumonia and the time it took to switch insurance companies to get a new wheelchair paid for, she still has that fire for life burning within her.

I don't know how she does it, how she isn't bitter toward the world. There are bad days, everyone has them, but Jamie is just amazing, she is so strong.

My parents are strong too. Having to see a child in so much pain and discomfort and have so many opportunities taken from her is hard. The stress of dealing with insurance companies, doctor appointments and hospital visits takes a toll on a family. But we're doing it. We are making it. It isn't easy but life must go on.

Almost losing my sister to this accident made me realize how precious life is and I am grateful she is still here with us. Seeing what she goes through reminds me how much I should be grateful for.

I am a runner and am in my first season of cross-country here at Castleton. I used to feel guilty when I ran because Jamie could no longer do it. When we went on a family vacation I felt guilty for swimming in the ocean because she couldn't. But I have realized I do not need to put aside things I enjoy, that Jamie wants me to enjoy such things in life.

All she wants is for me, for all of us, not to take things for granted and enjoy every moment of everything.

When you roll out of bed in the morning think of Jamie and remember all you are blessed with. Don't take things in life for granted because you never know if those things will be taken from you tomorrow.

Be like Jamie, grateful to be alive, even when each day brings another new challenge and struggle.

School looks to students to curb vandalism

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

During the week of Sept. 17, Castleton State College was struck by a string of false fire alarms and falsely activated emergency blue lights.

Two weeks later, the campus was hit with a bout of vandalism, prompting college officials to send out two campus wide e-mails asking for students' help.

"We need the eyes and ears of our community. You can make a difference," stated an e-mail from Dean of Students Gregory Stone.

According to Dennis Proulx, director of Residence Life, such e-mails are not common. However, these two were meant to give students a bigger picture of safety issues since a pattern was seen in the activation of the fire alarms and blue lights.

"I was afraid of group mentality," said Proulx of the false alarms. "The e-mail was meant for educating."

The primary dormitories targeted for the false fire alarms were Ellis, Haskell, Adams and Castleton halls.

"I think that even though those that did it thought it was in good fun, in reality it was just plain childish," said freshman Caitlyn McKenna, a Haskell resident. "It was just extremely annoying for all those forced to leave their dorms."

Vandalism incidences included garbage cans being knocked over and smoke canisters being ruined.

"We have a small number of students that think that's funny. It's disrespect for property," Director of Public Safety Bob Godlewski said of the vandalism.

Godlewski said that public safety has not received any e-mails from students with information regarding those responsible and he said there is no proof that the vandalism and alarms are related.

"I believe the vandalism is occurring by a few individuals and affecting everyone in a negative way," said Proulx.

A major concern with so many false fire alarms is the "cry wolf" syndrome, according Proulx and Godlewski, meaning students will get desensitized to the alarms, which could be problematic in the event of a real fire. The main worry is that people won't react and response time will go down. Also, there is the concern that the false alarms will take public safety offices away from something more pressing.

Godlewski believes there needs to be more active participation from students and has talked to some groups about a sort of neighborhood watch. He said that really the only way to catch people is through help, and if students know they are being watched, they will be less inclined to cause trouble.

Despite the vandalism and false alarms, Proulx sees the year as starting out well.

"I think we've had a great start," he said. "There is a pocket of extremism but, generally, we've started well and I like how the community is developing."

Godlewski, who hopes October break will calm things down, agrees and sees the acts as normal.

"What we've seen in the first five weeks is typical behavior," he said, although he added that there have been more incidences than the recent past. "It's typical behavior not condoned by us."

Campus Center gets new ATM

By Jeremy Harrington
Spartan Contributor

A loud, thunderous boom rips through the desolate halls of the campus center lobby. No there was not a dance going on, nor a band playing some loud music, just another frustrated user of the ATM machine on campus.

"Of course I'm going to kick it, it doesn't work" said Castleton student Stephen Shaw, after recently blasting the machine below the belt. "Now I have to walk all the way down to the bank ATM, this sucks!"

But those days are now gone.

Castleton State College students have been plagued by the self-serving ATM machine for the last two years. Finally, someone did something about it.

The ATM was replaced two weeks ago because apparently the school's staff simply had enough with it.

"We buried the old one," said a laughing Judith Carruthers, director of Career Development at the college, when asked about the fate of the old machine.

Apparently, that ATM machine was a fine piece of equipment up until about two years ago, Carruthers said. The school made numerous attempts to fix the machine, but soon after someone from the company came to fix it, it would just go haywire again.

"It was just overused and out of juice," Carruthers said.

Finally, after numerous phone calls, the ATM big boys decided to give the school a brand new machine.

An independent study prior to its replacement showed that on average eight out of 10 would-be ATM users got the massage "ATM is offline, please try again later" as if to mock their effort to get $20 for a pizza.

Dennis Proulx, director of Residence Life on campus, explained that the ATM and all of the vending machines on campus are governed by outside private companies and that the school contracts with the companies to keep them in working order.

The school does not receive any money from these machines, he said.

So with the college out of the equation, students were at a loss as to how to get working machines on campus. One suggested getting tough with the companies to spawn action.

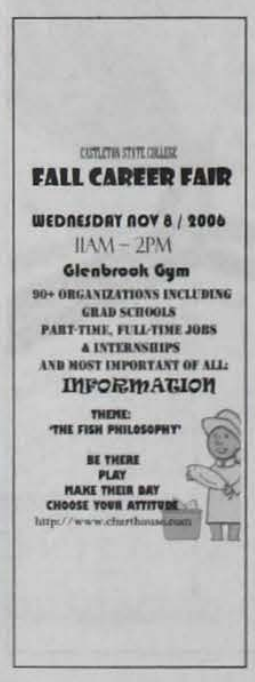
"We need to, like, do a mass petition to send awareness or something," student Jason Luce said, adding that if the companies got an earful from the masses, they will get weak at the knees and comply with the request.

As fate would have it, however, no petition was needed and students are now able to grab cash in the student center with ease.

But some students, still smarting from months of inability to get cash from the old machine, are leery about the new machine too and are waiting for it to start spitting out messages instead of cash.

"If this one doesn't work, I'm gonna kick it twice," student Stephen Shaw said.

PHOTO BY ALEX JENSEN
NThe new ATM stands in Campus Center.



Ritter: What have we done?

Blasts government, calls Americans sheep

By Eva Kane Leenman
Spartan Staff

Sheep are followers. These cliquey animals are perfectly pleased tagging along behind whoever is ahead of them. They have no mind of their own and are unimaginative, meek, submissive, docile and easily swayed.

Scott Ritter believes Americans are acting like sheep.

Ritter, formerly the chief weapons inspector for the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) in Iraq and currently one of the most enthusiastic anti-war crusaders in the United States, spoke at Castleton State College on Sept. 26.

"We call ourselves a democracy" the politically assertive Ritter said, "but imprisoned by our own ignorance, we don't even know what democracy is - we're a bunch of sheep."

Ritter's talk, titled "Targeting Iran," was organized by Professor Sanjukta Ghosh.

More than 350 community members and students flocked to the event, which kicked off at 6:30 p.m. in the newly renovated Fine Arts Center.

"We got 385 people there," professor Ghosh said after the event, "and I was going to be happy if 100 people showed up!"

Ritter's animated speech touched upon 9/11, the war on Iraq, targeting Iran, American ignorance and searching for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Ritter is infuriated, and he has every reason to be.

As UNSCOM's chief weapons inspector, before the invasion of Iraq, it was Ritter who insisted that Iraq did not posses any weapons of mass destruction. Being right all along, Ritter is now at liberty to say he warned us.

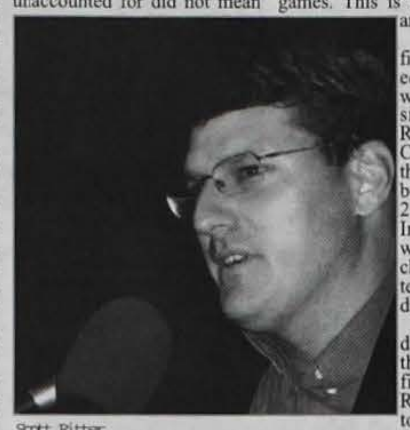
This he does brazenly, even stating that his background in military intelligence is a contradiction in terms.

Underlining the prelude to the war in Iraq, Ritter blames the president, Congress and the media, but he does not pardon the American people for their willful ignorance.

"What have we done?" he questioned. "We stand by silently; watch numbly but mutely as the numbers rise ... Absolute derelict of duty for every American - history will condemn us."

Ritter spoke at length about UNSCOM's mission of disarming Iraq, laying out his account of what actually happened: how the U.S. sought to use the U.N. weapons inspections as facades, and when those efforts proved futile, how U.S. intelligence set out to hinder the U.N. program.

Ritter said weapons inspectors were able to account for 96 of 98 missiles in Iraq, but just because there was material unaccounted for did not mean that Iraq was hiding it.



Scott Ritter

"You watch that CSI Nevada show?" he asked the audience. "CSI doesn't hold a candle to what we did ...We knew everything. We were that good and I say that with the utmost confidence."

"Our mission was disarmament," Ritter explained. "They said we couldn't do it, we said we did. You think they'd have been excited. No. Stone cold silence ... The CIA director went to Congress and says there are still 200 missiles. And everyone in Congress went ... 'Ahhh, 200 missiles. Very dangerous ...'"

Ritter went on to explain how he asked the CIA how they got that number and their response was that it was secret, and they couldn't tell him, but they continued to insist that Iraq had missiles buried everywhere.

So Ritter described how he and his team built radar to find these buried missiles. They undertook treacherous tasks: divers doing what they referred to as "Braille diving," the water so murky divers were unable to see and had to feel around with their hands.

"It wasn't fun," Ritter stressed. "It wasn't fun and games. This is life and death and we did it."

UNSCOM's final report stated that there were no missiles in Iraq. Ritter said the CIA then stated that there were between 12 and 20 missiles in Iraq, and that would never change, no matter what Ritter did.

"Americans died because the CIA certified a lie," Ritter claimed, to which the audience applauded ferociously, and Ritter, with as much ferocity countered: "Talk about willful ignorance - most of what I said was available for public record."

Ritter's statement is clear - Americans should have done more.

Janet Perron, a CSC senior who introduced Ritter, feels the same.

"One thing from Mr. Ritter's speech that will forever stay with me is how as citizens of this country we cannot just point the finger at the Bush administration in blame for all that has transpired since 9/11, we must take part of the blame for not challenging and questioning our government ... Greater good is only the greater good if the majority of people are cognizant."

According to Ritter, Americans are not against the war, they're just against losing the war.

"Eighteen percent was against the war to begin with," Ritter said, adding that that number is now at 65 percent. "They're not against the war, they're only against bad policy ... the only people who care about the war are those who have family there."

Ritter hates war, stating that it's the worst thing mankind can do to mankind.

"You don't get to hit pause in war. It's not a video game. It's not a computer game."

Wars just don't happen, Ritter said, sharing his belief that the November elections will determine when we go to war with Iran. He also believes there will be an air-strike in March 2007.

"If the U.S. uses nukes," Ritter said, "I will make the following prediction: This game will result in an evaporating American city because if we let this genie out, it's not going to go back in until it bites us."

The majority of Ritter's audience left enlightened, if not feeling inferior, as did CSC junior Matthew Kimball.

"[Ritter's] ideas are very thorough and analytical. And considering I'm extremely liberal and so is Castleton, it was very reassuring to have a speaker who was conservative, to speak out against the war. Ever since then, I've felt a lot more confident and comfortable speaking with people who are more on the right. I feel like we can all forget about our political parties and labels and find the things we can unite on. We need to stop dwelling on our differences and find what we agree on and go from there."

Perron agrees.

"If the audience took anything from Mr. Ritter's speech, I hope it is that we as citizens have the responsibility to vote and to keep this country a democracy, we must do as Mr. Ritter is, informing the public and demanding they take a stand and take control," said Perron.

Ritter's take on:

Politicians

"No politician has the courage to speak the truth about this war in Iraq."

Supporting Troops

"You've got to do more than drive around or wave a flag. You could train a monkey to do that."

America

"We're America - we can do anything."

Journalists

"Journalists are the most useless form of life on the planet - they're scum, not worth anything ... and you can quote me fully on that. Journalists are allowed to get the story wrong."

Colbert Report

"Get into the art of destroying somebody with a smile on your face - it's an art. It's genius."

Jon Stewart

"Jon Stewart's brilliant - you learn more watching Stewart than NBC."

9/11

"9/11 isn't squat. 9/11 didn't hurt us - it's what happened after."

Sounding Off

The place for Soundings Information & Feedback

Event Countdown -eight left from which to choose

Upcoming events:

Drama/Social Awareness

TONIGHT-Oct. 18th, 7 p.m., Fine Arts Center, (Casella Theatre) Kenny Carnes, "Pieces of War"
From his position as a former soldier, Carnes presents a cast of characters who explore the realties of war and the possibilities of peace. (His promotional material calls it dramatic verse -but it sounds like rapping to me.)

Theater

Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center, Metamorphoses
The Weston Playhouse Theatre Company presents an adaptation of Ovid's tales of mythical transformations.

KEYSTONE EVENT

Nov. 7, 7 p.m. lecture, 8 p.m. discussion, Glenbrook Gym, Billy Mills, Advocate for Native American youth and the U.S.'s only Olympic gold medal winner in the 10,000 meters
Note - Students can earn two Soundings credits for this double event, but they must attend the lecture portion before they are eligible for credit for the discussion portion.

Quotable Lines:

Manhattan Piano Trio Master Class

Question -What did you learn about what it takes to put together a performance such as this?

"To put together a performance it takes not only time but talent. Also all members of the group need to have an open mind to be able to see each others' strengths. Not only that but to be able to see how different influences change styles and musical compatibility." David Wentzell

"In order to put on a performance of this magnitude, practice is very important. Individual rehearsal and practice is just as important as practicing with a group. Having good communication with each other and being able to criticize each other in a positive way will only make the performance better for everyone." Michael Johnson

Vermont Symphony Orchestra

Question -What did you learn about what it takes to put together a performance such as this?

"I liked listening to the Green Mountain piece because I could imagine the mountain echoes we experience around here and up on Killington." Andy Brolsma

"I listen to classical music when trying to study, so I imagine numbers, dates, important events and facts floating around on a test day in class."
Adam Desautels

"I could see the rain falling on flower petals, and could see the Hermit Thrush fly high and proud. I could see and feel the sea serpent sneaking up on expecting swimmers. Then I saw the drunken man stumbling up stairs and down hallways. Finally I could see a grand celebration with a beautiful sunset." Jillian Martins

The Cruicible

Question 1--The Crucible was written in the 1950's and set in the 1690's.
How does it apply to 2006?

"It applies to 2006 and the thoughts of terrorism. The witch hunt we have placed on Iraq, Iran, and many other countries. Our president and his followers point fingers with no evidence. Weapons of destruction? I didn't think so, just as we saw no witches on this stage. It is those who do not question because of either faith in religion or government, both are the same, that kill the innocent." Yvette Furnia

"Telling the truth or living a lie is something not only government officials but the common man has to choose every day. It's a moral decision that man will forever have to answer. The real question is what kind of person will you choose to be? It's a question that transcends time." Sarah Strielkauskas

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Was it a success? A flop? Please contact a Soundings instructor or Spartan advisor David Blow to share your thoughts.

Entertainment Corner

Tenacious D: The Pick of Destiny

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

Tenacious D's album 'The Pick of Destiny' will be in record stores Nov. 14, and will serve as the soundtrack to the band's upcoming motion picture, "Tenacious D in: The Pick of Destiny.'

Tenacious D's self-titled debut album was released in 2001, born from the comedic genius of actors Jack Black (School of Rock) and Kyle Gass (Bubble Boy). When I first heard the song 'Wonder Boy' in the spring of 2001 the band became an instant favorite of mine.

Black and Gass put on the costumes of 1980s rock gods and give metal legend Ronnie James Dio, who has a guest appearance on the new album, a message.

"Dio has rocked for a long, long time, now it's time for him to pass the torch. He has songs of wildebeests and angels, he has soared on the wings of a demon."

Tenacious D's sound is a blend of 70s classic rock instrumentals and stoner comedy.

"The first decree is to legalize marijuana. The tyranny and the bullshit has gone on too long. You old f****n' shrives who blocked its legalization, you're banished from the land," as an example.

Tenacious D's upcoming album shows promise considering John King, who has worked with artists Korn, Linkin Park and Beck, is producing it.

The album also features rock legends Meatloaf and Dio along with Dave Grohl (Nirvana and Foo Fighters) on drums.

Black said in an AOL Music interview: "Ronnie (James Dio) throws down vocals. And don't forget the Loaf. Here's the amazing thing about the Loaf. He hasn't sung in a movie since the mother-f****g Rocky Horror Picture Show. Been saving himself for the D. Thirty years later he throws down, and throws down hard, I might add, said Black.

I have to say from a fan's perspective I was disappointed with 'Pick of Destiny' the first single off the new album.

Tenacious D's decision to launch this song first is nothing more than marketing at its best. They use the lyrics in this song to promote the film.

"If you're a diva then go to Geneva. And if you're a crony then suck on my boney. And if you are groovy then get in my movie. It's called 'The Pick of Destiny,' 'The Pick of Destiny,"' as an example.

If you've been living under a rock and never heard Tenacious D, they sound a bit like Styx, the Allman Brothers and Led Zeppelin meets Weird Al, Eric Swartz and Liam Lynch.

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The Passion of Ed Wood

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

Before you go running off to your computer or to the newspaper, let me tell you that you won't find this week's movie in theaters. Maybe about 45 years ago you would have, but you're better off finding it on DVD in the budget section, that's where I found copy I own.

When Plan Nine From Outer Space (directed by Ed Wood) first came out it was the worst movie ever made. Today it's a cult classic.

Plan Nine is about alien beings set out to conquer Earth, but who have failed eight times. Now they are attempting their ninth plan, which involves the re-animation of human corpses to create an army of the walking dead!

That is if you call three zombies an army.

Bela Lugosi plays one of the zombies, even though he died after his first scene was shot. Ed Wood's girlfriend's chiropractor then played the part by hiding his face with a cape.

One of the reasons people have said this movie is so bad is because of Ed Wood's "Dramatic License" - essentially what is good enough to pass is good enough to use. An example of this is the flying saucers. The saucers were made from a kit that he bought in a toy store. They were given the appearance of levitation from three pieces of fishing line attached to a stick. Using his "dramatic license," he was able to get his script written and his movie made cheaply and quickly.

The sets were made with very little money and effort and appear as though an elementary class made them. The cheapest looking set would have to be the cockpit of a commercial airplane. The whole set was a piece of cardboard bent to form the walls and ceiling. Behind this was a curtain to form the back wall and the door. For controls, cardboard steering wheels were made and CB radio props were put in. It's clear Ed Wood just wanted to get the movie done. He believed in quantity of scenes being shot not quality of what was being shot.

The directing of Plan Nine was as bad as the sets. He told the actors what to do and that was it. He was more focused on getting the scene on film than about the quality of the actors' performances. This is very noticeable in a scene at a graveyard when two actors are talking about their loved one who has passed away.

The actors could have been mistaken them for robots. They were so dull and plain sounding it made you want to shake your head in shame. He firmly believed that the movies weren't about the little things, but the big picture, so all the bad acting and continuity errors aren't that important. Ed Wood's style of directing might not be the best, but he still loved making movies.

Now, you must be thinking 'why is he reviewing this movie if it's so bad?' It's because this movie isn't the worst movie ever made. To really appreciate this movie you must look at the director and see how much he loves this movie and how much "effort" he put into it (he had his whole crew baptized so a church would provide funding). Not every filmmaker is perfect; they all can't make award-winning movies. Ed Wood tried his hardest and Plan Nine From Outer Space is his prized possession. That is the reason why it became a cult classic. Having it considered the worst movie ever made did help a little bit, but believe me there are worse movies out there. Just for the record, Robot Monster is the worst movie ever made. Plan Nine became a cult classic because of the passion that Ed Wood had. If you love the movies you make, then other people will also.

Photographing death

TJ
From page 1

rience to get a job there. He took their advice and went to work at a photo shop to gain some experience.

His big break came when Blow, then an adjunct, saw his senior photo project and told the head of the Post-Star's photography department that Hooker might be worth a look.

The department head saw the show, liked what he saw, and offered Hooker an interview, which led to his part-time post that he's held for two years.

He recalled for students his first assignment at the paper, shooting a circus elephant.

"It was nothing too spectacular, but it felt great to see my name on the photograph," he said.

Within two weeks of that photograph, however, Hooker said he was on the scene of his first fatality. An elderly man had climbed a tree to hang a rope swing for his grandson and had fallen, hit his head on a rock and rolled into a nearby river where he drowned.

Hooker vividly recalled the bloodstained blouse of the man's wife who had held his head trying to bring him back. It was a picture, he didn't take.

"I didn't photograph it because I couldn't handle it," he said, adding that he thinks he would be able to shoot the photograph today, even though he often still sees the look on the woman's face.

But as a self-proclaimed "sensitive guy," Hooker said it's often difficult to be shooting pictures of grief-stricken people.

"It's counter-intuitive to put my camera out instead of my hand," he said.

As for the name, T.J. Hooker, made famous by former Trekky William Shatner, Hooker said he has heard it all before, and takes the ribbing with stride.

"It's the bane of my existence," he said with a smile, before quickly pointing out that Shatner copied him. "I was born six months before the show even started."

Sanders, Tarrant, trade barbs

Fiesty
From page 1

Government spending was another hot button issue.

Sanders proposed to stop cutting taxes for the wealthiest one-percent of Americans as a means to chip away at the $8.5 trillion deficit.

"It's high time this government started working for all of its people and not just the wealthy," Sanders said.

Peter Welch also agreed that Congress was spending far too much money on a war that was not making Americans any safer.

But Tarrant shot back, pointing the finger at Sanders as the number one spender in Congress.

"Mr. Sanders, we gotta save some money for our grandkids," Tarrant said.

Martha Rainville, the republican candidate for the house, proposed an online federal budget that could be viewed via the Internet, so that anyone could see just how the government was spending its money.

Another hot topic in this debate surrounded accusations that some of the candidates were running a very negative campaign, often making personal attacks instead of citing actual facts.

"I'm proud to say I have never run a negative ad in my life," Sanders said.

Tarrant, who has been the center of controversy regarding his own campaign, admitted that he had not paid much attention to Sanders' campaign ads. Tarrant said that his own ads were designed to inform rather than to smear Sanders' character.

Tarrant also accused Sanders of furthering the division of the political parties instead of trying to work together as one unified voice in Congress.

"Parties are more interested in the demise of each other rather than the demise of America," Tarrant said. "I promise you I'll put Vermont and America before myself and my party."

Rainville also stressed that a candidate's party should not serve as an automatic assumption of character.

"I'm a republican but I'm not George Bush. I'm Martha Rainville," she said.

After the debate the crowd filed back out into the streets. Some loitered around briefly to speak with candidates personally, while others scampered off to their cars to escape the brisk October weather.

One student, dressed in a bright-yellow Tarrant T-shirt, shivered as she handed out her remaining bundle of Tarrant bumper stickers.

"At least there wasn't a riot," she said.

Castleton sustainability continues

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Orange and black are the typical Halloween colors, but this year Castleton is throwing a little green into the mix.

During the Rutland Halloween parade, Castleton students, staff, and faculty will be part of the energy efficient light bulb float entitled "Sustaining our community," which is being built by Area Coordinator Chris Lee. The goal of the float is to promote the effort that Castleton is putting into becoming more energy efficient.

"It's a great way to show and promote a healthy earth to younger kids who are watching the parade," said Heath Haskell, the college's cheerleading coach.

The cheerleaders, the hockey team, and other clubs and teams at Castleton will participate in this event.

Before Halloween arrives, students will have an opportunity to learn, get involved, and discuss sustainability with fellow students, community members and Castleton faculty and staff.

On Oct. 25, various clubs, including the outdoor club and sustainability club, will set up displays in the campus multipurpose room to detail how they are helping Castleton's sustainability efforts. In the campus center, information about sustainability and what it means to Castleton will also be available.

"Our hope is that it will ignite more enthusiasm in issues and lead to more conversation on campus about what this Castleton community should do," said Director of Budgeting John Crystal.

A board will be present for students to write their definition of sustainability and what they want to see Castleton doing to continue the energy efficiency efforts already underway.

"The issue is that you don't use up or misuse recourses, thus leaving the next generation to clean up or with not enough resources to liver comfortably," Dean of Students Greg Stone said.

Professor Paul Derby's Anthropology and Environment class will exchange student's light bulbs with energy efficient fluorescent bulbs to raise awareness about the simple ways to make the community more sustainable.

This is the fourth year that Sustainability Day, a national college awareness day, will be celebrated, but it is the first year that Castleton will participate.

Castleton President Dave Wolk asked that faculty to bring up sustainability in the classrooms. One thing to be discussed is whether students want to join the Talloires Declaration, which is a nationwide petition to get colleges and universities to be aware of environmental issues and to curb pollution and the depletion of natural resources.

Sustainability Day is aimed at getting more students involved in Castleton's efforts and to have their say on what Castleton decides to do to become more sustainable.

"I'd love to see students take a leadership role, that means students getting together and asking to become sustainable, to use alternative energy," Derby said.

Some students, however, are already taking action by either starting clubs or just making efforts on their own.

When Katelyn Singer visited her friend's suite, she noticed that they did not recycle. Singer told her friend's suitemates that if they threw their recyclables into the small trash can she would recycle for them.

"It makes me mad," Singer said. "It's so easy recycle."

Castleton's recycling program is underway, but officials leading the sustainability charge say there is more to sustaining the community.

"We've begun the process, but it's a long and complex process to really be sustainable and to take less from nature than we are giving back," Derby said.

Bringing joy to sick kids

By Janet Perron
Spartan Staff

PHOTO BY KENNETH TYLER

A bucket of drink can tabs were collected from local establishments to give to Shriners Hospital.

Walking into a Castleton Elementary School fourth grade classroom with about 30 excited faces ready to listen, Tammy Keech Arruda, with a can tab chain around her neck, began explaining her tab collection project that raises money for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

It's funny how something so small, something so simple can make such a big difference in the lives of ill children. The tab is the only pure aluminum part of the can and Shriners Hospitals - through efforts like Arruda's -- collect them to be recycled.

The hospitals currently get between 45 to 65 cents per pound of the recycled tabs and it takes 1,200 to 1,400 tabs to make a pound.

With it costing $1.6 million dollars every day to operate the 22 hospitals located around the United States, Mexico and Canada, every tab helps to raise money to aid children at Shriners hospitals who are burn victims, have orthopedic conditions, spinal cord injuries and other serious health problems. Children under the age of 18 are accepted to these hospitals at no cost.

"Every year it gets a little bigger," Arruda said of the tab project. "I'm hoping by next year to have it in all the schools in our district."

Arruda began this project 10 years ago when her father, who was a Shriner, passed away.

"Friends kept giving me tabs to give to my dad," Arruda said passing a picture around to the class of her father in his Shriners fez, while explaining how she thought it would be great to start a program with students.

"I chose fourth graders because they are young enough that they listen to what you say," Arruda said calling the kids "little messengers" because they like to tell everyone about what they have learned.

The name of the project is Collecting & Connecting, Together for Children. Arruda has pioneered this tab collection program at Castleton Elementary School, the Village School and Castleton State College.

Castleton Village school seventh and eighth graders must complete 10 hours of community service each year and the tab project is one program they get involved in. The students earn their community service hours by stringing the can tabs and last year went to the beverage center for three hours to remove tabs from cans.

"They get so hyped up about it," Arruda said, explaining how each student gets a string the length of their body and are responsible for filling it with tabs by the end of the school year. The strings are then tied together in May to see how far it will go. Last year there was approximately 550 feet of stringed tabs from the college and the elementary and village school.

The goal for this year is for the string to run the length of Seminary Street to the top of the steps of Woodruff Hall.

Each year the project has raised more money than the previous year, Arruda said. Last year $1,100 was raised. The money was split between the Springfield and Boston, Mass. hospitals because they treat children from this area. The money raised from the tabs can fund medical needs, but project organizers decided they'd rather fund non-medical items like toys and birthday parties for the children.

"The money goes to the kinds of things that make them feel at home," Arruda said. "It's kids helping kids."

Jan Rousse, assistant director at The Stafford Center for Support and Study of the Community here at Castleton, has helped to bring the tab program to the college. CSC has been involved with the program for five or six years, but the success of the program here on campus is questionable.

"I never knew what they were for," a senior standing near a collection bucket said. In the past, the sorority Zeta Omega, helped with the project but no longer does.

"I'm looking for someone to work with me in regards to this. It takes little time, just some planning," Rousse said. In the past, Rousse took a bus of students to the Shriners hospitals in Springfield and Boston so they could see how the hospital works.

"It's very rewarding and touches your heart," she said. "Words can't even express what they do for children."

Tabs can be dropped off at bins located around campus, at Jan Rousse's office above the Coffee Cottage or call her office at 468-1371 to have them picked up.

A need to diversify?

By Shou Watanabe
Spartan Staff

Castleton State College is missing something that colleges across the country have.

It's a program that helps certain students become better students, but something a majority of Castleton students don't need.

It's an English as a Second Language Program, also know as ESL. The program helps foreign students who can't speak English well with English grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

Although there are few international students and faculty members at CSC, according to Johan Acuna-Jimenez of Costa Rica, who teaches Spanish here, an ESL program at Castleton would be welcomed.

"When I was still a student at Ohio Northern University, I met so many international people from all over the world. Not every one of them spoke good English, but for people who didn't speak English well, the ESL program certainly helped them."

Argentina native Carolina Gazalo, who also teaches Spanish here and who taught Spanish in Argentina for five years before coming to CSC, said "It is different teaching here without international students around me."

Jimenez also said that he was involved with an international group called World Student Organization while in college. He said he felt comfortable around international people.

He said he believes that having an ESL program as Castleton would attract more international students and bring more diversity into the college.

"I learned so much about different culture, but I also shared my culture and language with other international students and Americans. It was like a culture exchange," he said.

ESL would not just help international people, it would bring people from outside the U.S. with different experiences to share with American students, he said.

So why hasn't such a program been offered at CSC? Academic Dean Joe Mark said there are at least a couple of reasons.

"We haven't had a need for ESL in the past," Mark said, adding that it is also expensive to build an ESL program and to recruit international students, citing travel fees as an example.

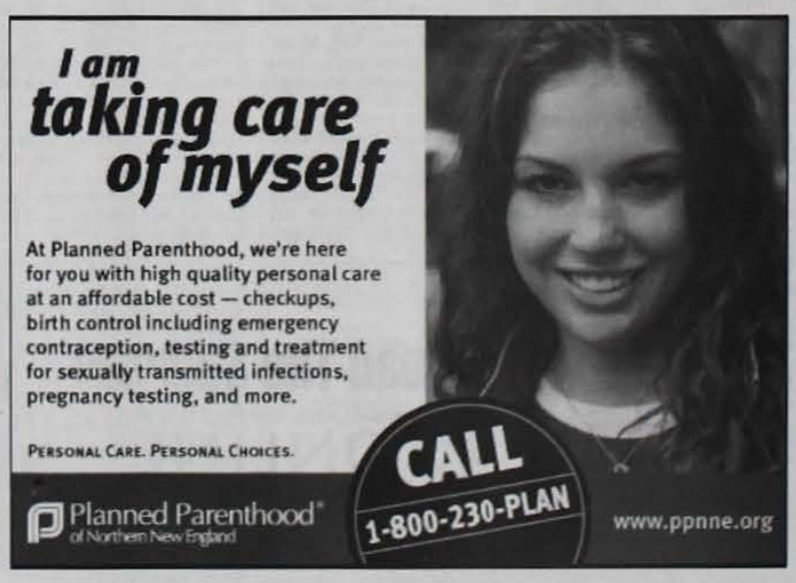
"We'd also need a service that supports all the international students," he said.

Maurice Ouimet, director of admissions, also cited the expense and the commitment needed to sustain an ESL program as reasons why it hasn't happened - as well as the need to recruit students to make it worthwhile.

However, both Mark and Ouimet said there's a chance for an ESL program in the not too distant future.

Mark said it might happen within the next two to three years.

"The college knows it's very important," Ouimet added. "It is a big thing for Castleton."



Q- if you could be any animal what would it be and why?

"A cute little puppy so all the girls would come to me."

Mike Stark

"A butterfly because I would look like a fairy."

Shannon-Lee Malsbury

"I'd want to be a monkey because I like bananas."

Alec White

"I would be a wolf because I work well in groups."

Mark Athorn

"A dolphin because they're intelligent and like to have fun."

Bailey Emilo

Nice to meet you, Deb

By Jazmin Averbuck
Spartan Staff

Name: Deb Choma
Birthday: January 19
Birthplace: Chicago, Illinois
Current Job Title: "Director of the Wellness Center"
How long have you worked at Castleton State College: "Thirteen years"
Favorite color: "green"
Favorite season: "Fall, just so beautiful."
Favorite quote: "Give it all you've got."

What types of jobs have you had in the past:
"Critical care nursing, emergency room, and then here."

What is the most interesting case you have treated since working at CSC:
"A student receiving chemo therapy."

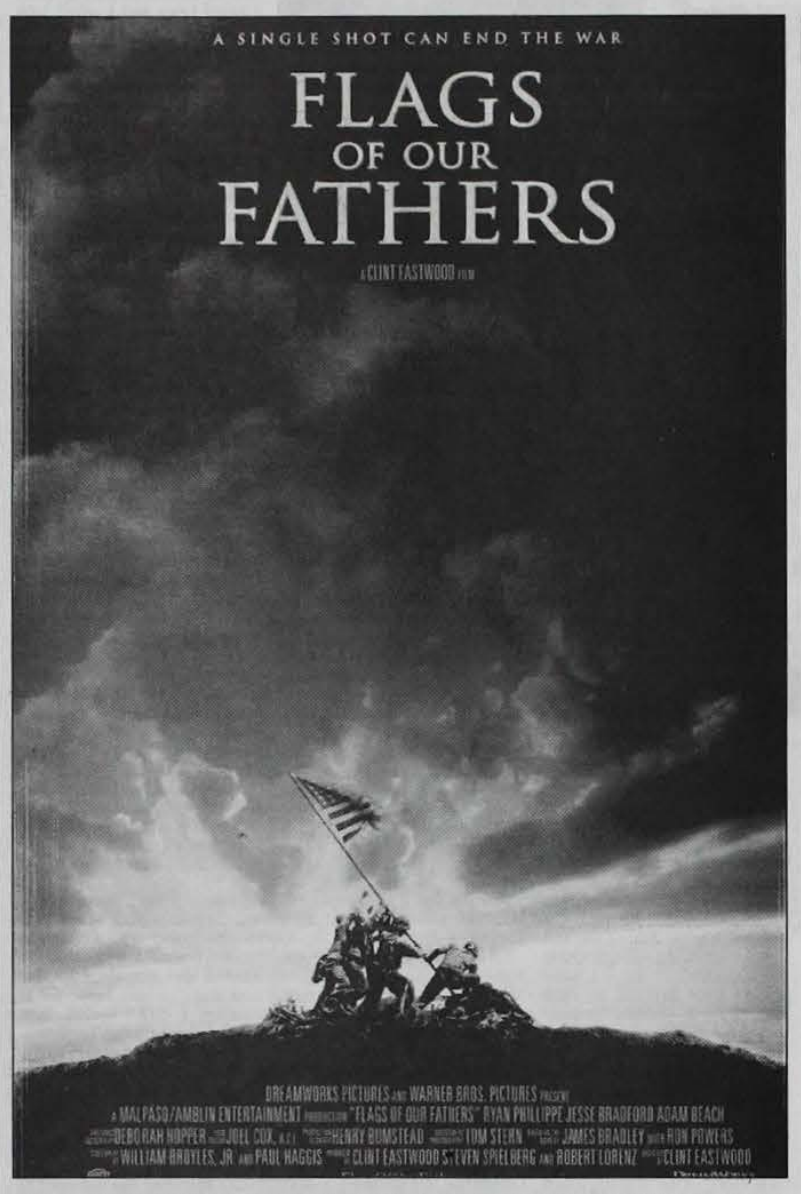
What has been the most common reaction from students during your "Sex with Deb" seminars:
"Stunned, because of lack of prior knowledge."

How many _____ do you give out a week:
Male condoms:
"50-100"
most common flavor:
"chocolate and banana"
Female condoms:
"very few"
Dental dams:
"10-25"
Tubes of lube:
"lots" most common flavor: "grape and strawberry"

Have you ever had to refrain from laughing at a patient:
"Absolutely, because they just aren't thinking."

Deb Choma

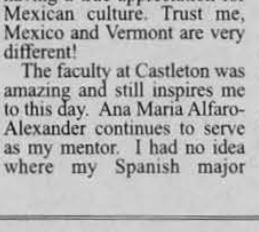
What's the best thing about your job:
"Working with you [the students]."



The Castleton State College community will have a rare opportunity to see a first-run film, "Flags of Our Fathers," for free in the Fine Arts center on Oct. 22 at both 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
The Clint Eastwood produced movie, detailing the bloody World War II struggle for the Japanese island Iwo Jima, is based on a book co-written by local author Ron Powers, husband of Associate Academic Dean Honeree Fleming.
Although the event is free, tickets are required and may be obtained at the FAC box office.

Alumni profile

Editor's Note: Jennifer Currier is a 2002 graduate currently working for Green Mountain Coffee Roasters in Morrisville, Vt.


Jennifer Currier (right)

Going to a small college seemed like something I would always do. I grew up in Morrisville, Vt. and loved the small-town atmosphere and Castleton seemed to be a community that I could thrive in.

When I got into my senior year of high school, I knew that Spanish was my passion. I was intrigued by the language and the culture and wanted to pursue that interest in college. All the schools I looked at had huge Spanish programs. They couldn't talk about great professors, great study abroad opportunities or a great "familia" within the department.

Castleton, on the other hand, offered me an incredible opportunity. Although many thought the Spanish department was "too small," it led me to have an instant family and instant friends. We would often find ourselves staying after class to have hour-long conversations (in Spanish, of course) about anything. We were really immersed in the language.

The most eye-opening experience of my time at Castleton is when I studied abroad for a year. I lived in Mexico for a year with a Mexican family and spoke only Spanish for a whole year. I learned so much about myself in addition to having a true appreciation for Mexican culture. Trust me, Mexico and Vermont are very different!

The faculty at Castleton was amazing and still inspires me to this day. Ana Maria Alfaro-Alexander continues to serve as my mentor. I had no idea where my Spanish major would take me, but she assured me that Castleton was preparing me for whatever I wanted to do, even if I didn't know what that was going to be. So many students look at college and think it's four years of classes, professors, projects, papers and a little bit of fun mixed in. Professor Alfaro-Alexander encouraged us to treat it as the best four years of your life. She made sure we saw college as more than just education. She made us view it as more of an experience.

Looking back on my experience at Castleton, I am so proud of the people and the place. When I left five years ago there was a lot of discussion about all the "changes" that were going to take place. There was discussion of new residence halls, new academic buildings and more students. I think many alumni started to get nervous about what those changes would mean for their alma mater, but I am encouraged by the positive changes on campus. As President Wolk has commented many times, Castleton is a "small college with a big heart."

My post-Castleton career has taken me back to Morrisville to work for Green Mountain Coffee Roasters in their sales division. In addition to getting free coffee, I have a great opportunity to use the skills I learned at Castleton - not to mention being one of the only people there who can speak Spanish!! GMCR does a lot of humanitarian work in the predominately Spanish speaking countries they import coffee from. I hope my next step within GMCR affords me the opportunity to travel to these countries.

My advice to anyone who is currently a Castleton student is to take advantage of every opportunity that is offered. Take a Spanish class for example! You'll never have the opportunity to explore your life and yourself as you do when you're in college!

Skaters: "Umm, skate park please?"

By Patrick Kittell
Spartan Staff

Bill Allen shook his head after seeing the fresh scrapes on the new benches in front of the Fine Arts Center.

The Castleton State College dean of administration could then be overheard blaming skateboarders for the damage.

"I have been inspecting the progress of work at the FAC and have also noticed the damaged caused by skateboarders there," Allen said in an e-mail response to questions about the damage. "This damage seems to be consistent with damage elsewhere on campus. In addition I have actually noticed skateboarders at the FAC.

"I would hope most are well behaved and avoid destruction of school property. Having said that I am also not convinced that all the boarders I see on campus are Castleton students. I think some maybe local community residents."

Every time you walk across campus you can hear the sound of skateboard wheels or the hard slap of a board hitting the pavement. Instead of playing sports that the college offers, or sitting in a dorm room playing videogames, skateboarders are out getting their own form of exercise.

But with their exercise comes complaints.

Countless times, Public Safety officers push skateboarding students away from the resident halls and send them over to their "designated skate park," the small commuter lot by the Public Safety building.

Many skateboarders view their boards as a personal attachment to their body, much like an arm or a leg, and seldom go anywhere without it. Some college students bike to class, others drive cars, but these people skate to class. Some people get annoyed by that and believe the walkways are crowded enough when classes get out without having to dodge skateboarders.

"I don't have a problem with skateboarders, in fact I'm friends with a lot of them. Just get them off the walkways," said Josh Kittell, a sophomore at Castleton State College.

As enrollment at Castleton begins to rise, some skaters say perhaps it's time for the school to build a small skate park. Maybe the school's Community Action Seminar class could tackle the project, they say. Last year the group installed new basketball hoops.

Castleton student Dave Foote, 25, has been skateboarding for 13 years. He said he would love to see a skate park developed at Castleton State College.

"If Castleton had a skate park, then we wouldn't have to go over to Green Mountain College to use the one they have. I know they say there are some minor problems with skateboarders on campus, but put in a skate park and I'm sure those problems would go away," Foote said.

Regarding the damage to the Fine Arts Center benches, Foote said "Skateboarders definitely did it." But he said other complaints of destruction at the hands of skateboarders, like damage to the steps of buildings, are inaccurate.

"I know that boarders scratched up the benches, but it's impossible for a skateboard to destroy concrete steps. I mean think about it, it's a piece of wood with wheels on it, it's not going to destroy cement," he said.

Despite anger towards skateboarders from officials, many students said they don't mind them at all.

"I don't see any problems with students skateboarding around campus. They're having fun. If the college is having such a hard time with the situation, and skateboarders are in fact destroying school property, then maybe they should build a skate park for them," said junior Lene Ballard.

So what are the chances of a skate park?

Allen said he's been approached by students looking for a small terrain park for skiers and snowboarders in the winter, but not about a skate park.

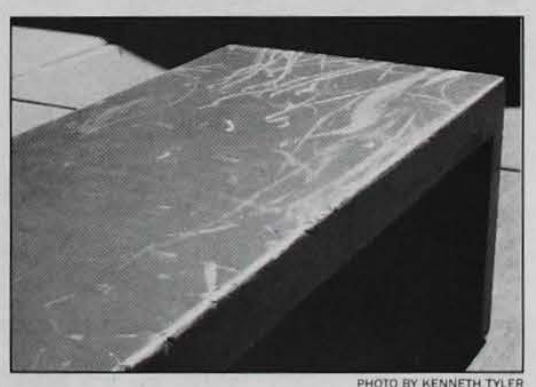


PHOTO BY KENNETH TYLER

Bench outside FAC bears scars from skateboards.

"With the snowboard park, stuff will be put away after winter and requires little up front cost. A skateboard park would need a hard surface and by that fact alone may require more planning and expense. I have talked about it with some staff members, but I don't recall talking to any students about it," he said in the e-mailed response. "But I don't think skateboarding in a busy parking lot is a good idea."

That said, Allen said he's certainly willing to look at options for a skate park if there is enough interest on campus.

But he sent a message that damaging campus property isn't the way to go about getting a park.

"I would hope that the scratched and broken benches, damaged cement work, and arguments with public safety will end right now. These items are here for the use and safety of all the campus community and should be treated with respect," he said. "The damage is unsightly, in rare instances dangerous, and often expensive to repair. The whole community bears the cost."

Foote doesn't condone the damage to school property, but he said the time has clearly come for a skate park at Castleton.

"Castleton has tennis courts, basketball courts, a rock wall, a soccer field, a baseball field, umm skate park please?" he said.

Heating it up: Ex-NBA Coach Launched Career at Castleton

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

A young man sat patiently in a small Glenbrook Gymnasium classroom, awaiting a decision that could unite him with his lifelong dream.

The athletic director then walked into the room and made it happen, he hired the jubilant 24-year old as Castleton's new head basketball coach.

Twenty years later, Stan Van Gundy climbed to the top of the coaching ladder and was calling the shots for the NBA's Miami Heat.

Many people probably wonder how a small-town, former Division III basketball player went from coaching a school with only 1,500 students to coaching larger-than-life athletes like Dwayne Wade and Shaquille O'Neal.

"You know, sometimes you just get really lucky," Van Gundy said in a recent telephone interview. "Obviously you have to work hard, do your job the best way you can, and hope you get big breaks along the way."

Born into the family business of coaching, he learned about the profession from his father Bill, who had over 40 years of experience as a basketball coach.

"My father was by far the greatest influence in becoming a head coach because of the passion and energy he brought to coaching," Van Gundy said. "That's where I learned what coaching is all about: The time you need to put in, the attention to detail, and the interest you need to have in your players."

After graduating from SUNY Brockport, Van Gundy began his career as an assistant coach at the University of Vermont from 1981-83.

A coaching vacancy was then created at Castleton State and Van Gundy decided to apply for the job.

"I thought the fact that the salary was as low as it was would be good because it would limit the pool of candidates," he said. "I didn't know what kind of a chance I would have, but went down to the school and had an interview, which went well enough to be invited back a second time."

When offered the position, he accepted it without hesitation and excitedly drove home to Burlington to inform his parents.

"The chance to be a head coach at 24 years old and run my own program was too much to pass up," he said. "It was great getting the job and it was a great experience coaching there."

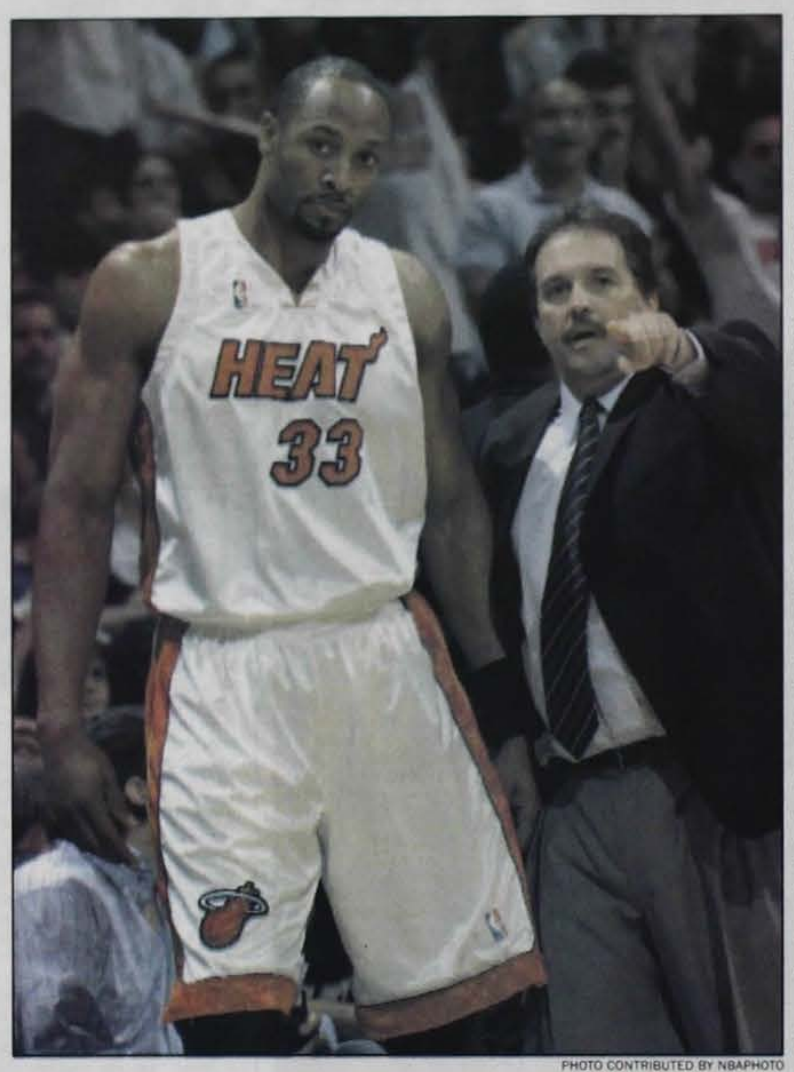


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY NBAPHOTO

Former Castleton coach Stan Van Gundy offers advice to Miami Heat center Alonzo Mourning in a 2005 game.

"Just Three Great, Great Years"

Stan Van Gundy had an immediate impact as Castleton's head coach and led the team to a 26-2 record in his first full season.

While he realizes his three-year record with Castleton is better than any other head coach's record with the school, Van Gundy will not take full credit to the success his team had.

"The process really started with Matt Kilcullen and Matt brought in some good players. The core of what Matt had brought in and then with Chrispin White, those players had some time there together and were able to mature. I was fortunate to come in and take over a very good group of players."

White, the former Spartan center and current Director of Community Service at the school, had a great deal of respect for his coach and enjoyed playing for him.

"From day one, he was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic," White said. "Stan had us playing a more exciting brand of basketball and made sure everyone knew their assigned roles."

Van Gundy was not much older than his players, and according to Chrispin White, it was crucial to the team's success.

"Since we were close enough to him in age, we all respected him and related to him on a personal level," he said.

In his three seasons at Castleton State College, Van Gundy had a record of 68-18 and led his talented 1984-85 squad to the NAIA National Tournament.

Van Gundy still keeps in contact with his Spartan players and remembers his experience at Castleton like it was yesterday.

He said he has always kept a place in his heart for the school that launched his career and for the players who helped him move up the coaching ranks.

"All the clichés you hear about teams, that group was really a team and guys made a lot of sacrifices," he said. "I also had a great deal of fun and it was everything college sports are supposed to be. I have always been grateful to each one of those players because they gave me three great years. Nothing since then has approached the experience I had at Castleton."

All Roads Lead To Miami

After his three seasons with Castleton, Van Gundy had assistant coaching stints under legendary coach Nick Macarchuk at Canisius and Fordham. He took over the head coaching duty at Division II UMass-Lowell and stayed there for four seasons until his younger brother's connection with then-Wisconsin head coach Stu Jackson got Stan an assistant coaching job with a major college program.

Jackson was impressed with Van Gundy and handed him the head coaching duties after they worked together for two seasons.

"When Stu left, that was an incredible break to get the head coaching job at a Big Ten school," Van Gundy said. "And nine months later I got fired and ended up in Miami."

Van Gundy once again got some help from his brother Jeff, who at the time had worked under Pat Riley as an assistant with the New York Knicks.

"Riley left the Knicks and wanted to bring Jeff down to Miami to work under him with the Heat, but couldn't because Jeff was still under contract in New York," he recalls.

"He was searching for assistants and my brother said 'hey, you should interview my brother, you'll like him,'" Van Gundy said.

Riley hired the older Van Gundy as an assistant coach, and Stan held that position with the Heat for eight years until he was given the head coaching job in October of 2003.

The Heat Is On

Van Gundy was hired right before the start of the 2003-04 NBA season, which did not give him much time to prepare for the season. To make things worse, the Heat had a tough first month of the season.

"We got off to such a terrible start at 0-7, and I used to laugh with my assistants at that point that I just wanted to win 10 games," he said. "The worst season ever in the NBA was 9-73 and I didn't want to be in the record books. I remember even when we got our tenth win, we were probably 10-18, and people thought I was crazy, but I felt like breaking out the champagne."

Early in the season, Stan had the opportunity to coach against his brother Jeff's Houston Rockets. It was only the second time in NBA history that two brothers coached against each other, with Larry and Herb Brown being the first.

"My brother and I were just two small-college players from a small town and a small high school," he said. "We were sort of nondescript guys who caught some good breaks and worked very hard, and there we were coaching against each other and making history."

Stan Van Gundy helped turn his team around during the second half of the season, and the Heat made the playoffs with a 42-40 record. The very next season, Miami added one of the most dominant players in NBA history to its roster, Shaquille O'Neal.

"There's no one else in the history of the game that's going to be 7'1, 335 pounds and be able to run and jump and play the game," he said of Shaq. "Other than free-throw shooting, he was a very skilled player."

The Miami Heat were a tough team to beat in his second season with the franchise, and made it all the way to the Eastern Conference Finals before falling to the Detroit Pistons in a classic seven game series.

The Family Man

Only 21 games into his third season with the Heat, Stan Van Gundy decided to step down from head coaching duties and handed the job over to team President Pat Riley.

There must have been a reason for Van Gundy, who started off with nothing and had to work his way up the coaching ranks, to give up something he loved doing.

"The simple answer to that, and the true answer, is that I got to the point where I really missed my family," he said. "I knew I was missing a lot, but now that I've been home for 10 months, I didn't realize how much I was missing."

When asked about his relationship with current Heat President and head coach Pat Riley, Van Gundy declined to comment.

The former Castleton coach is currently a scout for the Heat, fulfilling his contract to the organization.

"I simply make suggestions about what they ought to do to players I like and don't like, and let them know about the talent of players on other teams," he said of his current role. "It's good in that I still have a lot of time with my family and if I want to get back into coaching, I have been watching a lot of basketball and stay current on what is going on in the NBA through my role with the Heat organization. It's really the perfect situation for me now."

When I was young my father taught me a lesson that I still have not forgotten. I believe the topic came up after a day of trading baseball cards with a friend. He said "Son, there are many things in the world that can make a person happy, and you must always remember that money isn't everything."

So far, in my 22 years of existence, I have concluded that he was right. Money isn't everything, and having it doesn't make a person happy. It also doesn't assure that person anything, including a world championship.

If you don't want to take my word for it then ask Michael Ilitch, the owner of the Detroit Tigers, who steamrolled over the New York Yankees last week in the American League Division Series.

Over the past couple of years, Ilitch and Tiger's general manager David Dombrowski have carefully crafted a 25-man roster that has a total payroll of $82 million, giving the Tigers just the 14th highest payroll this season.

The Yankees, on the other hand, had the highest payroll, a number just shy of $200 million, making it the richest team in MLB history. And, even with George Steinbrenner dishing out $200 million this year, he will yet again sit in his recliner at home to watch the World Series.

The entire Detroit team makes less than the four highest paid players on the Yankees, but as they showed everybody, money doesn't guarantee a thing.

Yet, because of the money that the Yankees are making, everybody expects them to win. If they don't, then people assume that some catastrophic phenomenon must have gone terribly wrong to make them lose.

I'm not going to lie, the night the Tigers won game four to clinch the series was an extremely happy night for me. If the Sox aren't going to win, all I had left was to root against the Yankees.

My mood quickly changed the next day when all that I saw on TV and read in sports sections from across the nation was journalists in awe, questioning what was wrong with the Yankees.

Was it Joe Torre's fault? Is Alex Rodriguez ever going to be able to perform in the clutch with a Yankee's uniform on? Who is Steinbrenner going to sign this off-season so that this doesn't happen again next year?

All of these questions were being asked, and the whole time all I can think about is, "What about them Tigers!"

The Yankees didn't just lose, the Tigers won. There weren't angels helping them throw harder or swing faster, they simply outplayed a team that didn't want it as much. Detroit had something to play for. Everybody went into the series saying that Detroit would be lucky to win a single game, and they played with a chip on their shoulder because of it and then reminded everybody that there was a reason they won 95 games this season.

They believed that they could win, and while they were on the field they hustled and it paid off. When Detroit centerfielder Curtis Granderson and his $335,0000 salary (.026 of what Yankee centerfielder Johnny Damon made this year) was called on to hit, that's exactly what he did as he belted two homeruns in the series. When their starting pitchers, whose salaries combined are less than nine individuals on the Yankee roster, were asked to step up, they did.

After the Tigers finished the sweep of Oakland on Saturday, they will now wait a week until they begin the World Series. And no matter which team they face, the Mets or the Cardinals, the two teams playing in the World Series will have a combined payroll less than that of the Yankees.

So this off-season, Steinbrenner can dig into his wallet and overpay more veterans to sign with the Yankees, but as my father told me 15 years ago, money doesn't buy happiness. Nor does it win championships.

Women's soccer team falling in ranks

By Shou Watanabe
Spartan Staff

The Spartan women's soccer team has dropped its conference rank from fifth to seventh place after a close loss to Mount Ida College on Sunday.

Castleton's record is currently 6-3-1, creating the possibility that the team might not make it to the NAC Championship tournament.

In late Septemeber, the women's team was outplayed and defeated 5-0 against Skidmore College, tied with Maine Maritime Academy after going through two overtimes, and got shutout once again in a 2-0 loss to Husson College on Oct. 1.

But the winless streak did not stop the Spartans, who went on to post three straight shutouts against Lyndon State College, Lesley University, and Lasell College.

The team showed its depth against Lesley in an important 5-0 victory. Coach Chris Chapdelaine decided to replace almost half the usual starters with bench players. These backup players exceeded expectations and played the game like veterans, he said.

Backup goalkeeper Micole Bellimer, who is a freshman from Hartland, Vt., had an impressive shutout against Lesley on Oct. 7. She saved many difficult shots that came her way, and took many dangerous dives toward the ball when opposing forwards were fearlessly dribbling toward the CSC goal.

"I'm always nervous going into the game. The speed of the game is really different than high school," Bellimer said. "I love the game, love the team, and love the coaches."

The veterans played hard as well, with Tracy Stala scoring two goals and tallying two assists, giving her 12 goals for the season. Brean Farquharson had a goal and Carisa Chadburn scored her first goal of the season from a penalty kick.

PHOTO BY SHOU WATANABE

Heather Slater in Sunday's soccer game

On the final day of the fall break, Castleton played against Mount Ida College on a cold and windy afternoon. Both teams were held scoreless throughout the game and had trouble finding the net.

Both teams had an even number of shots on goal and time of possession.

The pace of the game picked up a little bit in the second half. Castleton was starting to control the ball more than its opponent, but the passes were not connecting. They had a few close chances for goals from Sarah Reaber-Spina, Courtney Wilday, and Brean Fraquharson.

With only four minutes left in the contest, it seemed like this game was already decided. Mount Ida's Andrea Wheeler scored the winning goal off a corner kick, giving her team a hard-fought 1-0 victory and putting the Spartans in a tough situation.

"Soccer is all about mental. We weren't so pumped up for this game," Reaber-Spina said. "But we are soccer players; somehow, we need to get ourselves pumped up for the game."

"We just played kick and run," said Assistant Coach Phil Pitelli. "We played way too direct. It's the extra touch that killed us and we need to start taking long shots."

The Spartans have three more games left in the season, including a game against Elms College, who has the best record in the conference.

Women's Tennis Team heads to NAC Championship

Castleton's women's tennis team will be headed to Becker College this weekend to compete in the North Atlantic Conference championships.

For the first time, Castleton will be going into the season-ending tournament as underdogs. No one on this years' team has played for Castleton for more than two seasons, but coach Paul Cohen is optimistic about our chances.

"Even though we have a very young team, we have a lot of heart. Everyone on the team has a strong drive to succeed. If we can play our best, we have a chance of capturing the title this year."

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THE SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, November 1, 2006

Clicking away your college career?
Online poker playing a dangerous craze among college students

By Tony Trombetta
Spartan Contributor

In the middle of the afternoon on a bright sunny day, only a glimmer of light exists in a dark lair where hundreds of dollars are being won and lost with the mere click of the mouse.

"I've been playing poker for about three years," Nick Louras said with the beaming light of his online poker room of choice flashing in his face. "I started out on Party Poker.Net and that was just a joke because I only played with play money. The real money play started a year ago."

Louras, a freshman at Castleton State College, is just one among a massive population of youthful online gamblers. The craze began in 2003 following the highly publicized victory of Chris Moneymaker at the World Series of Poker. An accountant from Tennessee, Moneymaker won his seat at the $10,000 main event by winning an online tournament on PokerStars.Net.

The very next year, the field at the World Series more than tripled and the number of online poker rooms multiplied exponentially. The number of college-aged players grew as well.

A recent study by the University of Nevada-Las Vegas found that nearly 40 percent of bets placed online involve college students. The number is attributed to the growing number of online poker rooms and the young people who join them.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PHOTOJOURNALISM CLASSS

Joe Marcum.stands in front of a smart screen displaying the partypoker.com web site.

Alec White, a senior at Castleton, has been playing online poker for three years.

"Two weeks ago I won $1,000 in a couple of hours," White said. "The next day I won $400 more. That was a great four hours of my life."

Louras spoke of his own big winnings.

"It's not a big deal for me to win a grand in only an hour or two," he said. "I don't even really like online poker. I sometimes get cravings for it, so I sit down and try to win some cash."

Sounds easy, right? But there's the other side too.

"A couple of nights ago I lost over $1,500," Louras said. "You win some, you lose some."

According to a recent article in Time Magazine, a Lehigh University student was so deeply in debt due to his online poker habit that he resorted to robbing a bank last December.

Please see **CARDS,** *PAGE 6*

Record-holding runner visits campus

By Janet Perron
Spartan Staff

With 300 meters left in the 1964 Tokyo Olympic 10 km race, United States runner Billy Mills is in third place. Ron Clarke from Australia, who held the world record at the time, pushes him and he stumbles.

Exhausted, Mills runs into the final corner to face the last 100 meters. A German being lapped moves to lane five opening lane four.

"Just one more try," he said to himself.

While running by, Mills sees an eagle in the center of the German's jersey and remembers what his father told him.

"'Son you have broken wings,'" Mills recalled his dad saying to him while on a fishing trip just a month after his mother's death.

His dad draws a circle in the dirt with a stick and tells then 9-year-old Mills to step inside, close his eyes and look deep inside of his heart, body and soul. His father claps his hands and asks Mills what he saw. Mills is speechless.

His father said he found anger that his mother died, hate because of how Native Americans are treated, jealousy that "'blinds you so you don't see virtues in our culture,'" and self-pity. "'All those emotions will destroy you,'" he told his son. "'It is the pursuit of a dream that heals you.'"

Mills remembered on that last stretch of the race his father telling him to look beyond his emotions to "'find that dream and passion to take you down the path of destiny. Have wings of an Eagle.'"

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BILLY MILLS

Billy Mills celebrates as he crosses the finish line ahead of Ron Clarke in 1964.

The eagle on the German's jersey gave Mills wings and the strength to fly.

He became the first and only American to ever win the gold in the 10 km with a world record time of 28:24.4, which still stands today.

"When the moment was delivered it was a gift from my creator," Mills said last week in a telephone interview, explaining that he did all of the work and training -- but the win, the gold, was a gift.

When Mills finished, a Japanese official grabbed him and said, "Who are you?" Mills said. Mills could not comprehend what he was saying and initially thought he miscounted laps and still had one more to go.

Mills said that when his father told him to look deep within to find positive desires, he also said he hoped his son would try sports. At age 12, Mills' father died and he was sent off to boarding school, which led to breaking high school track records, an athletic scholarship to the University of Kansas, and to the U.S. Marine Corps where he trained for the Olympics.

Mills said that by being an athlete, he felt he was communicating with this dad. It was "the way of feeling he is with me," Mills said. He tried boxing, basketball, and football before realizing running was his true desire. Mills then recalled the first book he remembers reading was about the Olympics, making him want to be an Olympian.

But the pursuit wasn't easy.

Even when he made the team, the U.S. Olympic Committee didn't have enough shoes for the whole team and gave shoes only to the runners expected to do well.

Mills was not one of them. He ran in borrowed shoes.

"Here's a man that wasn't expected to finish in the top half of that race, but ended up running a career-best by almost 50 seconds on the largest stage for any athlete, even without the support of his own coach," said Castleton cross country runner, Chris Gatchell, who said he's excited that Mills is coming to Castleton. He said many athletes limit themselves and don't push themselves beyond those limits like Mills did.

"I hope that teams and other students can really get an appreciation for what Billy Mills signifies," he said. "My hope is that Billy's story allows some athletes and students to stop letting limitations get in the way."

Dr. Lara Carlson, exercise science coordinator and professor in the department of natural sciences at Castleton State College, is the woman behind Mills' visit as the keynote Soundings speaker this year.

Please see **MILLS,** *PAGE 5*

Making it out alive

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Being pushed into a homicidal butcher with a big knife by my friend last year made me wonder whether I wanted to attend the theater department haunted house this year.

But I decided I'd take my chances with a different group of friends and hoped that I wasn't the one who ended up as the shield again.

It just so happens that one of the friends I was going with has a terrible fear of haunted houses, since a Frankenstein that we stepped out into the dark starless night. This haunted theater, unlike the many others I've been to, had a story behind it - the legend of body snatchers at Castleton. A brilliant idea, at least in my mind, and apparently theirs too.

Sarah led us to the back of the FAC, regaling the story of the supposed body snatchers, bypassing the route in the woods with the chainsaw chase because of bad weather.

This was fine by me, because I don't trust anyone with a chainsaw, especially my step-father, let alone chasing

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

Reporter escapes the butcher in last weekend's haunted house.

once proposed to her in one. This would be her first trip back into the realm of haunted houses.

Our tour guide ended up being Sarah Delia, my friend, and she kindly assured us that only one of the visitors had ended up missing so far. With me with one. At the point where we were about to enter the haunted FAC, Frankenstein's unbride backed out and our trio was down to two semi-rational beings, not including our guide.

Please see **HAUNT,** *PAGE 6*

FAC EVENTS

* Keystone Event: Billy Mills, advocate for Native American youth and the U.S.'s only Olympic gold medal winner in the 10,000 meters, speaks on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

* The theater department performs 'Man of La Mancha' on Noov.8-11 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 12 at 2 p.m.

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COMING NEXT ISSUE

Krystale Menard takes readers on an ecstasy "roll,"in reaction to a 2004 Peter Jennings expose.

Do students learn better from professors of the same gender?

Journalists need to show compassion

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

I'm new to this whole journalism thing.

I'm a wannabee, influenced by drops of Wolfe's Acid-Kool-Aid and Hunter Thompson's mescaline-fueled mayhem. Then again, name me a journalist these days who isn't?

I want to be that reporter who can get the news and still appear at least mostly human. I'm not a story-whore, hell bent on scooping up a story before anyone else can shovel it into their own newspaper first.

I'm not going to stoop to that level, preying on sources like a vulture circling a rotting carcass in the desert sun.

People, and by that I mean most of them, are worthy enough to have their own right of privacy protected. It's not my job to shove a microphone in their face when they're bleeding from the ears after some horrific train wreck, or weeping waterfalls of tears after they learn their brother exploded into a million gory pieces in Iraq.

It's my job to show compassion, to actually stand up and give a shit when others won't. If that means I have to put away my notebook or camera in order to console someone in pain, than so be it.

If that means I miss out on a key interview or a phenomenal photo-op, than I guess that's the price I have to pay to be human.

Some journalists could care less about compassion. Some exist solely as a means to leech off of humanity when it is at its absolute weakest.

During the recent screening of "Flags of Our Fathers" at the Casella Theater, I saw veterans from various wars break down in shakes and sobs after seeing the film, as memories of battles long-since passed flooded back into their memories.

These are the men who fought in force at Iwo Jima, Vietnam, Korea, and God knows where else, for the sake of our country. These are our country's heroes - our Supermen.

And it was when they were at their absolute weakest, with canes and tear-soaked handkerchiefs in hand, that the media horde stalked its target like a cat on a fish tank.

I couldn't bring myself to do that. I couldn't walk up to a visibly shaken veteran, who in himself was already extremely intimidating, and ask him how it felt to see all that bloody carnage again up on the big screen.

I mean what kind of stupid question is that? How do you think he's feeling right now?

Or better yet, why not ask, "sir, how about your squeezing out a few more tears so my photographer can see the pain in your face a little more clearly - the lighting in here is horrible."

Good Christ! Do reporters actually do that? I could never stand back and get off at the sight of people wallowing in their own miserable pain.

But many of the other reporters in attendance did. Most of them are going to have significantly better stories to print than I will. I let my compassion blind my eyes to my job, which was to get some good quotes, a few quick snapshots, and get back to my computer to type everything down for this issue of The Spartan.

I'm new to this whole journalism thing. There's a lot I need to learn, and there's a lot I need to change about myself in order to become a halfway decent reporter. But the one thing I won't change is my genuine sense of compassion for the sake of some stupid story.

And I'm just fine with that.

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Deja Vu or why I never should have kissed you twice

By Eva Kane Leenman
Spartan Staff

So here we are again. Now I suppose that's a little dramatic, but I'm human, so I tend to run with the drama trend, especially when it comes to my own emotions. I mean, it's the question of the hour isn't it? The question of the day, month, year, century: How do you feel? What are you feeling? How does that make you feel? How are you?

It's a set of questions I'd be willing to surmise that a grand total of possibly 97percent of Americans have become impervious to. These questions are similar to what I'm going to group up as the "Greeting Questions."

Hey, what's up? How are ya? How's it going? Seriously, how many times a day do we utter some unintelligible response to these questions without any nerve impulses reaching our cerebrums? Try counting. Most of us have become entirely immune to these questions. We simply reply "Oh, fine," as if on auto-pilot, and continue on with our meaningless lives.

Now pardon me if I sound bitter, but I am -- a little.

For while I as well was guilty of parroting salutations, I am just as offending, if not more so, of leaning too far on the other end of the spectrum, which makes me kind of want to embrace the whole "auto-pilot" mode whole-heartedly, because I'm beginning to realize that my feelings keep instigating my actions, which, in turn, leaves me bitter.

And especially bitter when I knew better.

I should be more conscience-stricken. I shouldn't paint pretty pictures in picture windows and then feel bad when I hand someone a rock and they happen to throw it and as a result my window gets all busted up. If you've got a good-feeling rock in your hand, chances are you're going to toss it. Who wouldn't?

It's like playing with fire, too. It's an experiment. Say I wanted to see if the invaluable wax sculpture I theoretically created (let's say it's an abstract of how I pictured our future) could withstand the heat of the fire. If it melted, which it would, I'd reasonably have no reason to be upset about it. But I would be, and that would leave me especially bitter because why would I purposely do something that I knew, really knew, would most likely end up in destruction?

Now let's say I put myself in the fire. And I get burned. Which I knew would happen, because the sculpture already melted, so what was I thinking? Later on, I even try again to see if I can withstand the heat. And of course I can't. So now I'm not only bitter and burnt, twice, I'm also an idiot thinking, Haven't I been here before?

Yet it isn't only my outlook on myself that's humiliating, since realistically I can't coop myself up and live a hermit lifestyle. At some point I'll have to go out in public with the rest of the population, bearing my scars, and other people will look at me and say, "What happened to your face or your arm or your eyebrows?" and I'll have to tell them and they'll look at me and shake their heads and most will restrain themselves from uttering the "I told you so's," pushing against their eyeballs.

Some of them will though. Some will be more than willing to let me know how they were right all along, and then throw an accentuated "What were you thinking?" at me, as if that isn't already the question that's been running on the express train of thoughts through my head. No, these people will be more than happy to rub in how stupid I was, letting my misstep overshadow their own blunders of disillusionment following this simple rule: I was stupid more recently, so you don't have to feel stupid anymore.

Sadly, this technique won't really abolish anyone of their own stupidity, as we as a race will never cease to be stupid. As a whole, we will undoubtedly continue to let ardent emotions get the best of us because when it comes to feelings we will always do what we, ourselves, choose to do, regardless of all the advice and opinions we asked so kindly asked for and then immediately ignored.

We will always do what we want to do, and then when life doesn't unravel the way it was dreamed up, we will challenge this. And then, all of the oh-so-solid arguments I've created in my head will slowly dissipate -- and I'll see it for what I suppose it is supposed to be -- old Play-Doh that has been left out too long and no longer can be molded into anything, and I'll be overwhelmed by this, and, you guessed it -- bitter.

Letters to the Editor

Information Technology's side to a tehcnical story

In regards to the recent article involving music sharing, it was suggested by a student that the school (or I should say, the IT Services department) is preventing the sharing of iTunes music between residence halls. This is not the case. There are a couple factors that prevent iTunes sharing, the main one being that Windows XP and Mac OS X come configured with a personal firewall that allows the iTunes application to work for downloads, but not the sharing portion of it. There are two ports (3689 for TCP and port 5353 for UDP) that need to be opened on the personal firewall for iTunes sharing and doing a Google search will provide details and instructions.

The other factor is that Apple themselves removed the ability to share across "subnets". Since each residence hall is in it's own different subnet, this accounts for the problem. Without launching into a full-scale networking 101 seminar, let me just say that this design is necessary since there is a maximum of 250 available ip addresses in each subnet. With approximately 150+ students in each residence hall (some with multiple computers), you can easily do the math to see why it's easiest to have each hall in it's own subnet. However, there are software applications that supposedly make sharing across subnets work. Again, a Google search will provide the answers - but all the configuration, coordination, and decision-making is in your hands - not ours.

Finally, I will say that IT Services does block Windows file-sharing across residence halls. This is done in an effort to contain certain destructive viruses that use the Windows-sharing ports to proliferate. These viruses often perform denial-of-service attacks on network devices and can take down an entire residence hall. Without the block, it would enable a virus to take down more than just one residence hall - even the entire campus. Any other questions you have will be answered to the best of our ability by emailing ithelp@castleton.edu.

Jonathan Czar
LAN Admin - IT Services

Opposing sides of politics can find a middle ground: Just listen

It amazes me how grown people of the far left and far right of the political spectrum still argue non-stop. Watching an interview on one of the many news talk shows is like watching a bunch of 5-year-old children argue over the shovel in the sand box.

I think that people need to stop being so set in their ways and start looking at the middle ground and what we can all agree on. I feel that maybe this is starting to happen.

Not on a national level, but on a local level.

For the first time in the three and a half years that I have been at Castleton, I have seen students listening to each other. I have sat in so many of my classes and watched as we all listen to others and what we each have to say. We talk about the war, poverty, welfare, and healthcare. Not only has it made sense, but people who have disagreed with me and my opinions have taken the time to listen, and we have found after a brief (and when I say brief I am literally talking 10 minutes tops) discussion that we can find a middle ground that would suit both their wants and mine.

Now, my question is this: If this is beginning to happen on a small scale, is it possible that we can see it happen in Washington? Or are the older generations of highly educated people that we elected to run our country going to shut out our opinions and vote party lines?

I have said it once and I will say it again, they aren't there to vote for the party they are there to vote for the people they represent -- US! It has to stop! People have to start opening their ears and minds to others' thoughts and opinions. That does not in any way mean you have to agree with them.

Something we all learned as very small school children was to listen and to share. That means sharing talking time, that means listening to ideas, and it means sometimes to try something new.

As my father always says, "How do you know you don't like it, if you haven't tried it?"

So here is my proposal to every teacher and student: Find someone who shares a different opinion than you on one topic, such as the war or healthcare. For five measly little minutes, listen to what they have to say. Don't think rudely or think of what you are going to rebut, but honestly listen.

When they are done, take five minutes to sit there or take a walk and honestly think about it. Don't think about what you hate about it, just think about their ideas and opinions. Then come back and have them do the same with you and your opinions and ideas.

After they take five minutes, talk about it and see if you can at least agree with one thing they said or find a way that something they want to see happen could happen.

You would be amazed at how much you can agree on!

Obviously we're not going to all become best friends and agree on everything and suddenly have the world be perfect. But if we start small, if we start changing our generation to be able to communicate better, then it will make for a better situations when our generation is the group of highly-educated elected officials who are making laws for this country.

We have to start with us and letting one another's voices be heard, and letting our own be heard. So listen: First make sure to vote. And take those five minutes with someone and let's see what we can accomplish.

Christina M. LaBarge

Have something to say?

Contact The Spartan at thespartan@castleton.edu, or call Ext. 6067

Parties to parenting

Former Kappa house now holds family

PHOTO BY JAQUELINE BORELLI

Lori Hart and her children pose in their house that used to belong to a fraternity.

By Jacqueline Borelli and Jazmin Averbeck
Spartan Staff

Four years ago, there was little question where you could find a large number of Castleton State College students.

The Kappa Delta Phi house on Elm Street was prepared with drinks, music, and more. From 80's parties, to socials, the Kappa house had events to please every student.

But two years ago the house was shut down - and has since been replaced by a family of four.

Lori Hart and her three children now reside in the house that was once filled with fraternity brothers and their friends, kegs, beer cups -- and even a urinal.

Hart said she was skeptical about moving in, considering all the work that had to be done to make it suitable for her and her kids.

She wanted a place that was big enough for them, and because of the great deal she was offered, she took it.

"This place was nightmare on Elm Street," said Hart reminiscing back as she began a recent tour of the house.

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI

The disco ball remains in the former Kappa house. The current owner said the ball helped pacify her infant when they moved in.

As she showed the house and pointed to all of her repairs, it was enough to make reporters' heads spin.

From the blood red walls in the kitchen, loose electric wires everywhere, and bar in the living room, Hart said she realized the place needed a whole new look, and she took on the challenge.

Hart said she found speakers, televisions, posters, and small refrigerators left behind. One great item the house featured was a disco ball in the middle of the living room, which she kept.

When she moved in she had a newborn girl who was often occupied by the spinning lights.

Hart's teenage son, Chris, had quite the reaction when he moved into his new house.

"I thought that I am going to have my hands full for a year and half," he said.

Marissa, Hart's daughter, helped out too - and even found money in one wall.

It took a lot of work, and Hart said they are still finishing up little odds and ends, but it has come a long way from being perhaps once the most popular hangout in Castleton.

Mitchell Wenz, a senior and Kappa brother, reflected recently on all the time he spent at the house.

Wenz, who pledged to Kappa in the spring of 2002, said Castleton used to have a whole different feel when fraternities were a part of the college community.

"It used to be fun, everyone would hang out," he said.

He talked about sitting on the front porch or roof and hanging out with his brothers. They would grill, play Whiffle Ball, and have all types of characters stop by and relax.

Students from on campus would actually leave campus, Wenz said, adding that it's not like that much any more.

Wenz said the fraternity hosted huge pig roasts that would get hundreds of people to come feast and listen to live music. Everyone would be there, from the athletes to the Greeks. And everyone got along, he said.

Another senior, Alec White, recalled hanging out at the Kappa house his freshman year at Castleton. He talked about how "everyone was friendly and excited to meet new people without judgment."

He says now Castleton "seems so clicky and everyone

Please see **KAPPA,** *PAGE 6*

Learning about 'green'

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

The largest sign in the campus center read "229 million tons ... that's how much waste Americans generate every year."

Saving the earth is a daunting task, but Castleton is taking that challenge one day at a time.

On Oct. 25, the multipurpose room was converted into a showroom of earth-saving ideas. For the first year at Castleton, Sustainability Day brought focus to energy- and waste-saving initiatives.

"This whole movement has kind of exploded," said Professor Paul Derby, who is spearheading the effort. "Colleges are buying into the need to be more sustainable. It's crucial that colleges become good examples for the students, employees, and larger community."

Booths featured composting and food waste reduction at Castleton, a solar and wind power exhibit, biodiesel exhibit, and Central Vermont Power Service (CVPS) detailing 'cow power.'

"We're more than happy to participate," said Christine Rivers from CVPS. "Our farms have 500 to 3,000 cows in free style barns. An anaerobic digester holds waste at 100 degrees for about 20 days and builds up bacteria that create methane gas. The gas burns and creates electricity."

According to the CVPS Web site, www.cvps.com/cowpower, its farms produce between 1.2 and 3.5 million kilowatt-hours of electricity a year.

Student Sue Gernhardt combined a bit of exercise with her energy-saving lesson from Efficiency Vermont. Gernhardt was just one of many to peddle a bike hooked up to four regular light bulbs, two incandescent and two compact fluorescent bulbs. The peddling produced DC power, lighting the bulbs. Switching from the incandescent to CFL bulbs, Gernhardt was able to produce the same amount of light at 25 percent the work.

"You really can notice the difference," Gernhardt said.

Across the way, students from Derby's class were exchanging incandescent bulbs for CFL bulbs. According to Energy Star, CFL bulbs use at least two-thirds less energy and last up to 10 times longer. Furthermore, if every American home used just one CFL bulb, saved energy would be enough to light more than 2.5 million homes a year.

"It was very successful. We exchanged 349 light bulbs," Derby said. "For one day, that's great."

Student Yvette Furnia spent several minutes discussing with one exhibitor the cost efficiency of biodiesel vehicles and comparing them with grease cars.

"Biodiesel cars take out the grease to run cleaner and longer," said Furnia, whose band is looking to buy a biodiesel van. "It's the little stuff that counts."

Huden Dining Hall also participated by serving a lunch of Vermont grown and produced foods, turning off all unnecessary lighting, and conserving water by not using trays.

"Student reaction was mixed. Some were really onboard, appreciated it, and pulled me aside and told me they were going to try it every day, which is great," said Pete Merritt, director of food service. "Others were vocally loud about what an inconvenience not having a tray was."

Throughout the day, the dining hall staff put aside any white milk that was thrown away. The amount of wasted milk was around 40 gallons.

"I think all we want to do is get people to think about and understand the impact each individual has," Merritt said.

Having attended events at other campuses, Derby said that this was the most consistently attended one he'd seen. Currently, he said that his class is working with Aramark to draft a plan that would turn the food service's waste into compost and to serve more local farm products. Furthermore, over the next few years, he looks for the campus to become more sustainable.

"The earth can't support the abuse we're doing to it," he said. "I'm finding that students get it. We've put this on you guys and it's the younger generation that's going to fix it."

Dispatch from a world away: Asthma cuts Peru trip short

By Kristina Collins and Ariel Delaney
Spartan Staff

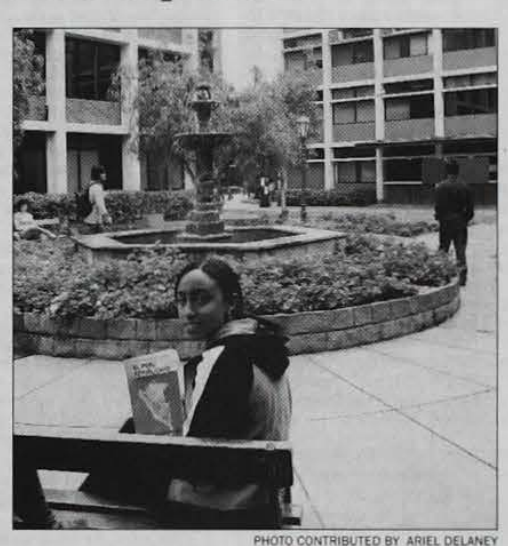

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ARIEL DELANEY

Delaney is alone in Lima, after Collin's sudden asthma attack.

While I honestly don't remember much about it, I somehow ended up in Newark, N.J. last Sunday morning.

Well, with help from my mom. I came home with an unwanted souvenir - asthma and some sort of allergic reaction. So please take this as a precautionary tale.

While we can never predict how our bodies will react to new situations, we can still do some research. I obviously did not do my homework.

Peru has a large percentage of respiratory problems. I never had asthma before. In October I went to the emergency room twice in two days and I was warned that the third time would not be as much fun.

The doctors also told me that I would not be allowed into a higher elevation because I am short of breath, so I could forget about Macchu Piccu.

Honestly, that's when I realized I needed to go home. I've never felt so weak before. Stairs became an issue because I couldn't breathe.

I was kidding myself though, because I felt ill since mid-August and just told myself that it would go away, but I let it get worse.

When you are sick, all you can think about is being sick and even small tasks are difficult.

So Ariel (Delaney) took good care of me, but it wasn't fair for her or my host family to have to deal with the sick kid all of the time.

I really miss Peru and all of the people I met there, but I did go home with a few adventures and some interesting stories.

Ariel: I'm sticking it out solo

Like the daily tremors that shake Lima, I too have been shaken a bit.

We knew that coming to a different place would be very hard, especially to Lima. Even through all of this we have had each other too lean on, especially since most of our jokes don't make sense to people here.

Well things have changed a bit. Last week Kristina left Peru. Even before the semester started, she was not feeling well, but just like the strong, adventurous person she is, she still came here.

Through the contamination here, which is horrible, things just got to a point where we knew there was only one option - for her to return home.

So last week I said goodbye to my best friend so she could get better.

It was really hard as anyone can imagine.

I am alone now, and school is very different without Kristina.

When I missed a word, she picked it up and vice versa. It got to the point where we were finishing each others sentences.

I have no excuse to speak poor Spanish now because I spoke lots of English with Kristina and often blurted out spanglish (a mix of the two).

Even though she is gone, all I can do is pray that she gets better while I finish what we started here.

Here's something I just realized: For the entire three issues that this paper has put out I have been ridiculously negative about everything.

I am not usually a negative person.

I look on the bright side of situations, and always try to look for the best in people.

Then BAM! College hit and slowly I became a whiner, complaining about every tiny thing. I try not to, but the dark side has been looming over me like a storm cloud.

College seems pretty hard at first. Don't get me wrong, it isn't a stroll in the park. It's supposed to be difficult. But if you don't put it into perspective, then you're going to have a horrible time.

Balance is the answer. It took me a while to get a hold of this concept. I knew it would be tough, but I somehow expected it to come easy like high school. Classes, friends, and all the other things that go with it.

Then I had an epiphany.

I'm paying for this experiencez; I might as well have the best time I can. You have to make college what you want it to be, otherwise you're sitting alone in your dorm room (or whatever the politically correct term is now) listening to depressing music and freaking out about the next big paper that's due.

That was me, I admit it. I sort of just wanted college life to fly by, while I waited for the next weekend I could go home.

Friends were ultimately the key to solving my problem. At first there is an awkward period, where everyone is searching for a place to fit in. I was positive that I would not find a group, or individuals I clicked with. I was like a leader in my group of friends back home, and my house was our base camp. I shouldn't have expected this to follow me, but in some ways I assumed it would.

But a few friends came along who I now can't imagine being without. After less then two months, groups all around the campus have formed, filled with students who act like they have known each other forever. It's weird how this can happen in such a short time.

They weren't there before and 'poof,' now they are some of my closest friends.

In high school you meet a lot of friends, some who you know will last forever, and others who are just acquaintances or shallow friends.

It's the same in college. You strive to make many friends, but my advice is to try not to impress everyone. If you work too hard trying to please everyone, you may overlook the few friends who like you for who you are.

People can tell when you are trying too hard, or aren't being yourself. Don't forget your old friends either. If you were best of friends in high school, it shouldn't be difficult to be good friends in college if you really want to.

The ones who moved far away, try to stay in contact with in some form. That's the power of technology folks. Use it.

Knowing all this makes me feel all grown up.

please check out

www.castletonspartan.com

do it now.

What are you waiting for?

Castleton Ink

Castleton students and a professor share their tattoo stories

By Dawson Raspuzzi
Spartan Staff

Alex Moquin has tattered angel wings on her shoulder blades.

It's not a figure of speech. She had them tattooed on before she started college this fall. The wings are something that she has wanted since she was 13, Moquin recalled, so a couple of months after she turned 18 her sister brought her to Viper's Nest in Springfield, Mass. and she had them done.

Moquin says the angel wings represent how she protects her friends and people she cares about, and the tattered edges represent all of the hardships that she has overcome.

Chris Centola, a senior at CSC, proudly brings his heritage everywhere he goes. His only tattoo, an Italian flag crossing a U.S. flag with his last name spelled out in an ark shape over the top, reminds him of who he is.

"Both of my parent's sides are 100 percent Italian, so the tattoo represents how I am Italian as well as American," Centola said.

People of every generation constantly try to come up with different ways to express themselves. Many students at Castleton have found that tattoos give them something in common, yet individualize them at the same time.

PHOTO BY ALEX JENSEN
Shea Bigsby's memorial tattoo.

Senior Jenna Howland, has a total of six tattoos, four of which are spread over her back. Her favorite is a tribal design that she designed herself and had inked onto her back when she was 18.

All of her tattoos are concealed when she's dressed in normal school clothing, which she says she did on purpose. One reason that she got the majority of them done on her back is because it is the biggest space so the tattoos don't have to be squeezed in, and also the fact that they can be hidden easily.

PHOTO BY KATHERINE DANELSON
Alex Moquin displays the tattered angel wings she has tattooed on her back.

"When I tell people that I have tattoos they always look shocked because I don't really come off as a person who would have a lot of tattoos," she said.

Another senior, Marissa Williams, has five tattoos, located on her wrist, stomach, arm, back, and the back of her neck. Her first tattoo, a band of red flowers on her arm, she got 11 years ago when she was only 16. Williams said that when she got her first tattoo there was still a law in Vermont that made tattooing illegal in the state. Fortunately, she knew a man that did "underground" tattooing, who inked her first tattoo.

Tattoos represent freedoms, accomplishments, history, rebellion, and are sometimes just for fun.

Other times, as is the case with student Shea Bigsby's tattoos, they serve as a memorial to remember a loved one.

The first tattoo that she got, soon after she turned 18, is the symbol that is on the cover of Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon' LP, which is inked onto her right bicep. The tattoo was done as a memorial to a friend who was killed, representing their favorite band.

On her back she has another tattoo of a cross with a Celtic knot in the middle. She had the tattoo done after two of her friends and one of her friend's fathers were killed. On top of the knot is the phrase "Wish You Were Here," quoting a Pink Floyd song. This design is especially important to Bigsby, besides representing the loss of loved ones, the design was created by her older sister who went with her as she got it done.

But students aren't the only ones on campus decorating their bodies. Drennan Spitzer, a third-year assistant professor of English, got her only tattoo two and a half years ago. The design on her lower back is Smaug, the dragon from J.R.R. Tolkien's story 'The Hobbit.' As an avid reader of Tolkien, and a woman who's dissertation was partially on Tolkien, she chose his fictional character Smaug to represent her career, interests, and what's important to her. She admits that the tattoo also show her "dorkiness."

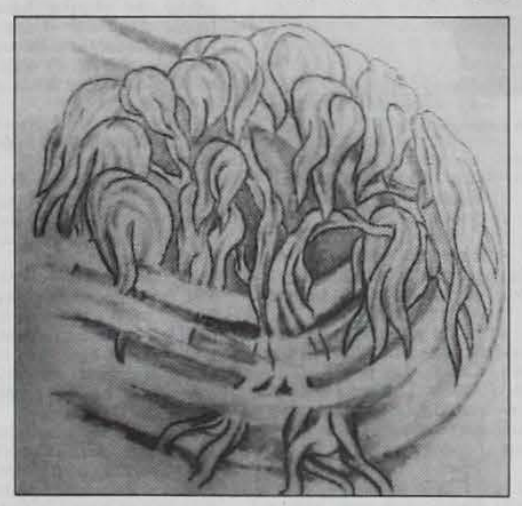

PHOTO BY JESSICA KROL
The tattoo of a willow tree that adornes Ben Gleason's shoulder.

Parental reactions

One of the biggest fears that Howland had when she got her first tattoo was what her parents would think when they found it. Because she was only 16, and the law in Vermont states that a person must be at least 18 to get tattooed, she decided not to tell her parents, although she knew that they would find out at some point. When they did find the tattoo, "They were really pissed," Howland said.

Over the years, though, her parents have accepted them.

When Moquin got hers done, her mom was skeptical about the idea at first, but consented. After Moquin came home and showed her the tattoo her mother loved it.

"Now my mom can't wait until Thanksgiving so that I can show it to all of my relatives," she said.

Bigsby's parents acted the same. At first they weren't pleased with the idea of tattoos on their daughter, but after she explained what they represented, they understood them and even have started to like them.

Centola said that his parents like his tattoo, and are proud that he cares about his family's history.

"They were always cool with the idea," he said.

Tattoos are very common in Williams' family, she said, so the idea of her getting one did not cause any controversy. Her mother was so supportive that she even accompanied her to get her first one done.

Where'd you get that done?

How people choose where to get their tattoos done varies, but often the person has a connection to the shop, or the tattoo artists themselves. By the time Moquin designed the wings she wanted to carry with her for the rest of her life, she already had a place in mind where she wanted it done. The man who inked her design was a friend of her sister, who Moquin knew and trusted, so it was a simple choice for her.

Bigsby has a friend whose older brother does tattooing, who she trusted to do her designs. Howland also knew the man who inked her body, which was the only reason that she did it even though she was legally underage. Before getting any tattoos she hung out at the shop frequently, so when she got the first one done she was very comfortable with the process.

Of Williams' five tattoos, she knew the person who did the work for all but one of them. A friend who is an amateur tattoo artist did her most recent tattoo of a human skull with wings coming out from the side. Williams likes the idea of having someone she knows doing the tattooing.

"When a friend does it, it's more like collecting a piece of their art," she said.

It was only the third tattoo that her friend had ever done, but Williams trusted her to do it.

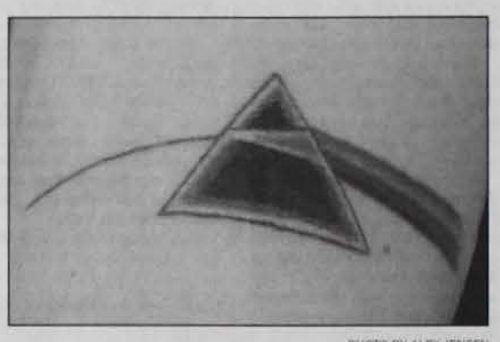

PHOTO BY ALEX JENSEN
Shea Bigsby shows her first tattoo of Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon."

Williams found the design on a gravestone in Salem, Mass., which she traced and gave to the friend.

"I'm fascinated with skulls, and with the whole horror movie thing," Williams said.

Future tattoos?

"I think that my skin's a canvas, and tattoos are the art that decorate it," Bigsby said. Bigsby plans to add to her art collection, saying that she has three or four more in the works, including a Celtic symbol, a dream catcher to represent her Native American heritage, and the phrase "I will fight no more for love" spelled out in Cherokee.

All of these students say tattoos can be very addicting.

"After I got my first one, I wanted another right away," Howland said. Within two years, she had six, which along with the tribal design include two dragons on her shoulder blades which she says represent her and her younger brother, a sun in the middle of her back, a design on her hip, and the word "love" written in Arabic in an "undisclosed location."

Howland also has plans to get one of an elephant, which she considers to be her good luck charm.

Moquin also has aspirations to get another tattoo in the near future. She has narrowed the prospects down to either a Gemini symbol, representing her birth month, or a barcode with her birth date encrypted inside.

"If I get another it's going to be of the old school Patriots emblem on my calf," Centola said.

Spitzer did not find a sudden urge to get another tattoo after she got hers, but she would like to get another in the future. The design that she has decided upon is a Celtic Trinity knot, which she wants to have inked between her shoulder blades.

A downside?

Williams has been swaying back and forth on the decision to get her next tattoo for the past two years. The design and area of the body for the tattoo have already been decided, but she knows that the consequences could be detrimental. The design is a spiral, which she wants inked around her left eye. There are no tattoo shops in Vermont that will tattoo on the face or neck, but in the last couple of weeks she found a shop in New Hampshire that will do the inking if she decides to go through with it.

The reason no local shops will do the work is the same reason that Williams has been hesitant on getting it done. It can be difficult to get hired in the professional world with tattoos that cannot be covered. While this is the reason she is hesitant to get the tattoo, it's also what has attracting her to getting it done.

"A lot of people see facial tattoos as restricting to people's careers, but I see full-time careers restricting to life," she said. Instead of a full-time job, Williams would like to write, travel, and enjoy life by being free to do what she wants, instead of working a "nine-to-five."

PHOTO BY ALEX JENSEN
Matt Tatro's tattoo of "A Nightmare Before Christams."

Although Moquin, an art major, would like to design tattoos professionally and possibly even do tattooing, she said that she would not get a facial or neck tattoo because she does not want to take any chances with them restricting her professional prospects. Centola, Howland, and Bigsby agreed with those views.

Tattoos on places other than the face, neck, and hands generally do not affect a person's chances of being hired at a job because they can be concealed. Howland, however, has come across one instance in which having tattoos has restricted her freedom. During the summer she works at a children's camp, and while there she was told that no tattoos could be revealed. The attire that the average counselor wore was a tank top and shorts, but she was told that she had to keep a T-shirt on so that her back was concealed.

Although it was not a major concern to her, she doesn't think that it is right that tattoos are looked upon as a negative thing. Spitzer said she too believes it is unfair for anybody to judge people by the tattoos that they have on their bodies, but she knows that it is human nature for people to do so.

Bigsby agrees.

"Tattoos show creativity and different ideas, which is what companies say that they are looking for," she said.

Books, art and Buddha

By Bradford Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

Is someone else's suffering worthwhile if it makes other's suffering more bearable?

I've been juggling this question around in my head for a few years now and I don't think there's any kind of answer to it. One of those things that can go either way and still sound good.

The question is intriguing because of my interest in, and deep respect for, two things: Buddhism and art.

Buddhism is a religion based on the cessation of suffering. Everyone suffers and the cause of the suffering is ignorance and desire and once these things have been forced out of a person's life through intense study and meditation they reach enlightenment and no longer suffer. This takes years, of course, and for most many lifetimes and reincarnations.

My view of art, which certainly differs from many, is that the majority of truly great art comes from the suffering of an artist. Some writers and painters, like Kafka or Jackson Pollack, go through intense, painful mental suffering to complete their art. Writers like Jack Kerouac and William Burroughs went through alcohol and drug addictions, addictions that led to books like The Dharma Bums and Naked Lunch. Even writers like Kurt Vonnegut, who may not have suffered with a mental illness or addiction quite as strong as the artists above, suffered from a desire for the world to be better (something the vast majority of artists wish for).

From this desire comes a key component to most art: to point out the hypocrisies, travesties and maladies of everyday life. To do this honestly and earnestly, an artist has to suffer through them and through that suffering, create something that represents their condition. And even those artists who don't suffer, who create art for the sake of art, still have an intense desire to create new things, break down boundaries and make people feel something they wouldn't have felt without their piece of art in front of them.

It's this aspect of art, the suffering and the desire, that clashes with the ideals of Buddhism. If all of my favorite musicians, painters, and writers had discovered and embraced Buddhism, the one religion that really makes sense to me, the vast majority of their work would have never been created. Book and poems and songs and artwork would cease to exist.

There's also a question of whether or not the joy and emotions that these works of art made people feel is worth the suffering of the artist. Buddhism is also a religion of karma, of getting back from life what you've put in. If you do bad things in life you'll be rewarded with bad karma. The same goes for the good you've done in life.

If these artists suffered and desired their entire lives but made a million people happy from their works after they've died, does that make their suffering worthwhile? Of course, if their works make people think too much and begin suffering themselves because of some profound epiphany then, according to Buddhist thought, they've done something deserving of some bad karma. If that art alleviates someone else's suffering, even for a moment, then the karma is good.

This can all be boiled down to another question, one where we can throw out Buddhism altogether and simplify things: What's more important, the happiness and life of a writer or the art that their unhappiness eventually produces?

I'd like to say the latter, but that doesn't seem very Buddhist of me.

Read The Spartan
ONLINE

Emotions flying high at "Flags of Our Fathers" advanced screening

PHOTO BY ENNIS DULING

Nina Keck of Vermont Public Radio interviews Iwo Jima vet Roy Wilkinson at "Flags of Our Fathers" in the Casella Theater.

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

As many students rested quietly in the safety of their dorm rooms, the sound of violent screams and booming gunshots could be heard echoing out from Castleton's Casella Theater on Oct. 22.

Hundreds of people, including a large number of American war veterans, braved the cold and cloudy October weather to attend a free screening of "Flags of Our Fathers."

The film, directed by Academy Award-winning director Clint Eastwood, chronicled the events of the American assault on the island of Iwo Jima during World War II, as the American forces fought ferociously to take control of the Japanese stronghold resting inside the volcanic fortress of Mount Suribachi.

The film was based on the book that was co-written by Ron Powers, a Pulitzer-prize winner and Castleton resident.

Also in attendance were no fewer than six actual survivors of Iwo Jima, some hailing from as far away as Michigan, while others came from as close as Poultney and Rutland.

One of the distant relatives of Rene Gagnon, one of the flag-raisers pictured in one of the world's most memorable photos, was also in attendance.

Dave Wolk, President of Castleton, asked the attending veterans to stand and be recognized, as they were greeted with thunderous applause.

"Today is our gift to you," Wolk said. "In honor of all of our veterans."

Powers himself introduced the film, taking a moment to thank the brave men who fought so valiantly so long ago.

"Being able to tell your story and preserve it for future generations has been the greatest honor in my life," Powers said.

The film itself was a powerfully moving reminder of the cost of war and the effects that still haunt many to this day.

The graphic nature of the film proved at times to be too intense for many of those in the audience.

Many veterans were visibly shaken by the onscreen sights and sounds. Some sobbed in their seats, while others left to find sanctuary in the theater lobby.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, who wished to remain anonymous, said it was the familiar sound of frantic gunfire that drove him to step out and collect himself.

Brandon resident Eric Wiltz represented the United States Navy at the battle of Iwo Jima.

Wiltz said he and the other veterans felt very honored to receive such a warm welcome from the college.

"It was very emotional, but that's to be expected," Wiltz said.

Despite the often traumatic reminders of the day, Wiltz was not left without a sense of humor.

"I'm 81 years old. I get emotional over everything these days." Wiltz said with a chuckle.

Mills: Vision, mission, and values

: MILLS
From page 1

She first met Mills as a graduate student and assistant track coach at the University of South Dakota.

The head track coach had Mills come to speak with the team and that's where Carlson got to ask Mills about training and staying motivated in highly competitive situations.

"To meet someone who has persevered …" Carlson said trailing off almost in awe. "He does a lot for the Sioux and Native Americans in South Dakota."

She explained how Mills founded and is spokesperson for Running Strong for American Indian Youth, a group devoted to helping young runners find their dreams.

But Mills talks more about finding a life of peace and happiness than about running in his book Wokini, renamed Lessons of Lakota.

He was born on Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota, which is one of the poorest communities in America with unemployment around 80 percent.

"The reservation is rich in culture and spirit," said Mills, when asked about his upbringing.

He stressed that the gold medal was not a ticket out of the terrible living conditions on the reservation, but the way he acquired the opportunity to gain a college education, to travel, and educate others.

"Because of sports, I can go all over the world," he said, saying the medal created exposure and the means to educate people on Native American issues and promote change through critical thinking programs.

Mills said his running ability placed him in a unique position to be an activist and encourage global unity, because he says it is the key to the future of mankind. Mills' message echoes what he learned about life though sports; to have a vision, a mission and values, which are always sacred.

"It feels like he radiates passion for life and genuine passion for all humanity," Carlson said of Mills. "Even if you are not a runner, how can you not appreciate?"

Carlson recalls a scene from the movie 'Running Brave' about Mills' life before winning the gold, when he returned home to the reservation to remind himself why he runs and the need to find that internal motivation.

"External things make you forget why you're doing it," Carlson said. "His story is such a tale of the underdog," she said, in front of a computer with the famous photograph of Mills' gold medal win as her desktop. "It's not fiction; it's true."

Sounding Off

The place for Soundings Information & Feedback

Event Countdown - Six left from which to choose

Upcoming events:

KEYSTONE EVENT

Nov. 7, 7 p.m. lecture, 8 p.m. discussion, Glenbrook Gym, Billy Mills Advocate for Native American youth and the U.S.'s only Olympic gold medal winner in the 10,000 meters

Note - Students can earn two Soundings credits for this double event, but they must attend the lecture portion before they are eligible for credit for the discussion portion.

Theatre

Nov. 8-11, 8 p.m. & Nov. 12, 2 p.m., 'Man of La Mancha' Come dream the impossible dream as you watch this amazing musical version of Cervantes' 'Don Quixote.'

Culture Awareness

Nov. 14, N-Period, Black Science Auditorium, "India: Karma, Caste, Cows, and Krishna"
Join CSC's own professor Paul Derby as he opens our senses to the cultural world of India.

Music

Nov. 15, 7 p.m., Fine Arts Center, Shafaatullah Khan
Learn about Indian culture on Tuesday, come hear the music Wednesday. Sitar, Surbahar, Tabla - Khan plays them all, and well. Don't know what they are? Come find out.

Quotable Lines:

Dismas House presentation
Question: Why is Dismas House important to you?

"Dismas is important to me and to the community because it teaches us about hope, how to not judge people, and the power of love and acceptance. When I look at the people up on the stage, hear their struggles and see how they've made the choice to better their lives it inspires me to look at my life, recognize how lucky I am and inspires me to make good decisions for my future. I would like to congratulate each of them for taking the hard road to recovery and a better life." - Alisha Joy Cratty

"Dismas is important to me because people do deserve second changes. It only seems fair that people are given somewhere to stay so they do not feel abandoned. The Dismas House helps keep people from repeating their past mistakes." - Danielle Lieberman

"Dismas is important to me because it helps me see the power of people. The positive power of talk, action and love is almost immeasurable. The residents and staff of Dismas, together, help all of us understand the daily struggles these folks go through. I know, just from today's experience, that I have a MUCH better understanding of recovery and ex-prisoners returning to society." - Marcelle Tucker

War & Peace
Question: What would you personally give up for peace?

"I think peace is one of the most important things in this world. Since this is the case, there is very little I would not give up to maintain it. The things I would not give up include my identity, my freedom, or my family/friends. Anything else, including my life, is fair game." - James Vicki

"I would give up low gas prices. If we have to pay $3 a gallon to get peace, then great. To bring troops home would be worth it to pay a little extra at the pump." -Jon Lemieux

"I wouldn't be willing to give up anything. Peace is supposed to be harmony between people but people have already given up their lives for peace and it clearly hasn't worked. From this I feel that you can't give up anything more than your life, so what's the point, there will never be peace. If human sacrifice isn't enough, I don't know what is." -Mitchell Arnold

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Was it a success? A flop? Please contact a Soundings instructor or Spartan advisor David Blow to share your thoughts.

Entertainment Corner

CD Review: Scissor Sisters Ta-Dah

By Michael Trzcienisky
Spartan Staff

The Scissor Sisters burst onto the musical scene in 2004 with a club hit version of the Pink Floyd classic "Comfortably Numb." While it certainly got them attention, it also angered Pink Floyd purists who insisted that the cover made a mockery of the original.

But everyone was shocked when the group's eponymous debut dropped later that year, and though the infamous Pink Floyd cover was present, the rest of the album proved that the group had considerably more to offer.

Their main influence was Elton John's early seventies hits. The album became the biggest hit of the year in the UK, but never really took off in the United States, making them one of the few American artists to become much bigger in the UK then in their home country.

In the U.S., two singles "Take Your Mama" and "Filthy/Gorgeous" became small hits and there were high hopes for the group's second album to take them to the next level in America.

That second album Ta-Dah not only sounds like an early 70's Elton John album, Elton plays piano on two tracks.

The album is not a straight Elton John rip-off album; the Sisters are keen enough to also use influences ranging from 80's new wave to disco to create their updated Glam Rock feel. They even go as far as to include a song called "Paul McCartney" (though the song title is never said in the lyrics).

The album, as expected was a huge hit across Europe, but despite good publicity, including an appearance on Dancing With The Stars, the album has been a disappointing seller in the U.S.

It entered in the top 20 but is falling down the charts quickly.

A part could be that the album was not picked up by the FYE chain because of remarks that Scissor Sisters lead singer Jake Shears made against the chain. This cuts the sales of the album drastically.

Add to that the fact that trying to market a band with four openly gay males and a female to an American audience is a difficult task to begin with, especially in more conservative areas of the country, and you're left with a very good band with little hope of ever achieving any lasting American success.

Scorsese's 'The Departed' scores big

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

Martin Scorsese, who has directed such features as 'Mean Streets,' 'Taxi Driver,' and 'Raging Bull,' is back with another stylish and provocative movie, 'The Departed.'

Although he stays with his usual theme of gangsters, cops and corruption, he doesn't bring us another been-there-done-that storyline. The lighting to create the atmosphere and the story to get us engaged is not completely original, (these days it's pretty much impossible to do something original) but it does stay interesting with twists that the characters churn out from behind their backs.

Here's the story behind 'The Departed': In South Boston, where the Irish mafia is the king of the crime, its leader, Costello (Jack Nicholson), recruits a new member of his gang at a very young age.

When the boy, Collin Sullivan (Matt Damon), gets older he joins the police force and quickly climbs the ladder to be the eyes and ears in the police for Costello. At the same time, Billy Costigan, (Leonardo Dicaprio), an undercover cop, joins the force as well and is put on an assignment to take down Costello and his gang.

To do so he joins the Irish crew of criminals. While both men are serving their jobs, they have to live double lives and take each other down, without getting caught.

What I found interesting about this storyline is that Collin Sullivan is brought up by Costello's guidance and further helps him to keep his gang strong by being a mole in the police force, while at the same time keep an ordinary life so no one suspects him.

That guy must have been one busy bee! While watching the story unfold, you are really not to sure who to dislike and who to like. At times I felt Billy was the good guy, but then at other times it seemed like Collin was.

The good and bad sides of both characters are shown so this flip-flop of who is good and who is bad gets tossed around from time to time. This is a good sign of a well-crafted story because the writer takes the time to show that these criminals and police officers have their good side and bad side. Another movie that does this is King of New York, with Christopher Walken.

A highlight of this film, which was being discussed throughout the film making circuit, is the lighting. Martin Scorsese wanted this movie to be a modern film noir. To do so, he had striking shadows and streaks of light in the background and on the actors. This was one of the big highlights of a noir film particularly in the 1940's.

Scorsese definitely did have shadows that looked like they were coming through windows or cracks in the walls, but we all know that you can't have true film noir in color. It's practically impossible. The reason being is that the literal translation of film noir is black film. If Scorsese had this film in black and white, it would be more like the film noir movies of the 1940's (Maltese Falcon, The Stranger).

To wrap it up, The Departed is a very good movie, not Scorsese's best, but still a very good movie. He serves a story to keep you hooked on and believable acting, exciting action and creative storytelling to keep you entertained.

If you're a crime/thriller/drama fan (all or just one of the genres will do just fine) then go see The Departed.

Hunting Hauntings

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Glynnis Cronin came to Castleton this fall not believing in ghosts. Before school started, she was a believer.

Now she has started a ghost hunting club and wants to find one.

Dark and late at night a few months ago, the students involved with the summer transition program arrived at Hubbardton Battlefield. But instead of getting out to look for ghosts as planned, they were too scared to leave the van, Kate Pierce said.

Another scare came to them instead.

Austin Shafer, who was enlisted by the mentors of the summer transition program, ran to the vans and started hitting the windows. Eliza Baker and Michelle Page sat near their car listening to the screams from behind the closed doors and windows.

"I've never seen anyone quite so scared. I did not expect to have that kind of effect" Shafer said recently, having heard that Cronin started the ghost hunting club.

The next night Cronin went back with her friends. This time they got out.

"It's just to have a good time," Cronin said. "We make a different story every time."

Every time they go a little bit farther and find a different reason to get scared. Once Cronin claimed to see a sword floating around Hubbardton Battlefield. Other times they got scared off by cars driving by, thinking the noise comes from an army of ghosts.

But they aren't the first ones to be intrigued by the plethora of ghost stories Castleton has to offer.

Those living in Ellis Hall hear the rumors about the ghost on the second floor, known to some as Penelope. The facts are scattered, but some that live there are not willing to take the chance.

"I definitely think Ellis is haunted," Sarah Pearl, former Ellis resident, said after hearing stories from her friends.

Emily Shea used to wake up her roommate, Yvette Furnia, in the middle of the night to accompany her to the bathroom. Shea also would not stay in the room by herself at night.

"It creeped me out when I heard about the ghost," Shea said shivering. "I'm very afraid of things like that; they bother me."

Furnia, on the other hand, would take showers at midnight, ghost stories or no ghost stories.

With many historical buildings, ghosts have had a long time to set out their marks. Leavenworth and 82-year-old Woodruff Halls have been reputed to have a ghostly janitor stalking the halls. The 185-year-old Old Chapel that was used as a medical college is reputed to have a headless ghost of a young woman lurking around, who was victim of bodysnatching.

In an effort by students in an argumentative writing class to find out what students in Andrew Alexander's English composition class like and dislike about living in the residence halls on campus, one of the things that spooked students away was the haunted buildings.

When asked how he would hunt a ghost, Benjamin Paulson said, "Walk around late at night, preferably with someone else, to make sure you're not hallucinating or drunk."

An internet addiction

: CARDS
From page 1

Jeffrey Derevensky, co-director of the McGill University Youth Gambling Research Clinic, estimated that an astonishing five million youths in the United States and Canada have some kind of gambling problem.

Some suggest that the popularity of Internet poker among college students lies in the fact that they are free from the firm restrictions that their parents had imposed on them.

However, some, like Joy Mitchell, Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Problem Gambling, say parents may actually fuel the gambling.

"The parents were so excited that their kids were only playing poker," Mitchell said. "There's the rationale that it's better than drugs and/or alcohol."

Louras noted that he plays right in front of his parents while they are sitting around the dinner table, and that while they do not encourage it, they really don't mind as long as he doesn't get into debt.

However, gambling is gambling and addictions can occur.

James Greenough is a senior at Ohio Northern University and recently experienced the dark side of Internet poker.

"I had a friend who started playing a couple of years ago," Greenough said. "It seemed like everything was fine at first, but within a year he was in so deep that he had lost his life savings and flunked out of school. He's currently enrolled in Gambler's Anonymous."

According to Mitchell, that story isn't unique.

"Parents call us all the time, concerned that a student hasn't been showing up for classes and is losing scholarship money," Mitchell said.

Despite the gambling horror stories that Mitchell sees and hears on a regular basis, there are some who seem to have everything under control.

"Poker is a game that needs to be played with the utmost caution, or it can quickly become a gambling problem," White said. "For me, school is more important, and poker is more of a hobby."

Kappa House

: KAPPA
From page 3

is in their own group."

White also said that although the fraternity was often talked about negatively, it helped students meet new people. His first night in Castleton he went to Kappa and felt so welcomed.

"I remember sitting on the couch on the roof with friends, having so much fun," said White.

Wenz said he was disappointed to see the house get taken away and stressed how Kappa wasn't just about parting.

It raised money for Take Back the Night and helped rebuild the cross-country course, for example.

Wenz hasn't been inside the house since the remodeling, but he said he knows it must be so much more different than when he was there.

Hart said she does have old Kappa brothers come and see the house occasionally, which is still owned by two Kappa brothers.

The busiest time for guests is usually in the summer, Hart said. One former resident only made it in one step before he couldn't go any further, she said.

Hart has adjusted to living in a college town and said all the surrounding students are really nice and never give her a hard time. And she has adjusted just fine to life in the former Kappa house.

"It is a normal house," Hart said.

Lost in horror

PHOTOS BY JANET GILLETT

Students put on a haunted house in the FAC last Friday and Saturday.

: HAUNTED
From page 1

I was disappointed, because haunted houses are more fun when at least one person in the group is freaking out. It keeps some comic relief in the situation.

When it comes to haunted houses, I'm not sure what I dislike more: being the first one shoved into an unknown situation, which I was in this case, or the one that the spooks follow close behind.

On second thought, I'm more of a stay-in-the-middle kind of girl, which obviously can't happen in a group of two.

Once we entered, I also had to find a way to manage taking pictures and getting out alive. Getting out alive is, of course, my first priority, but I wanted some striking pictures nonethe-less. I found out that taking pictures while walking by a killer butcher, a different one this time, is not too easy. Since I seem to have bad luck with these butcher knife waving crazies, I decided my time was better spent keeping my eye on the butcher so his knife doesn't accidentally leave the wall and take out my guts.

Navigating my way through the FAC in light and without being chased is hard enough for me. Then enter into the equation that someone who knows very well that I still am unable to tell my left from my right is screaming at me to go one way or another to escape the hungry cannibals or the leering Jasons.

Needless to say I was lost.

If this was a real haunted theater, I would have been killed a couple of times over, especially since I always turned the wrong way and found myself staring face to face with the exhibit of the room.

I would have waved, but I had the camera in hand so I took their picture instead.

A never fail for any haunted house is chauffeuring us poor victims through hanging sheets where people grab at you (this happened even though we were assured that no grabbing or touching would occur, but the one who opposed this already left so maybe they decided to go for it anyway) then straight into some kind of blood spattered murder.

When we reached the corridor full of balloons, I knew what was awaiting us as Sarah announced that if we were to pop a balloon, we would disturb what was hiding inside and what ever that was we didn't want to find out, unless we wanted to be hurt -- badly.

So my friend and I shuffled our feet as requested, like our tour guide did likewise at first (then she started trying to stomp one near the end, but she missed - whoops for us).

Once the balloon popping failed, they had to get us somehow so why not have someone come in claiming that an unnamed source is now in the building and we were to be on the lookout? The maniacal serial killer on the loose then jumped the announcer and chased us all the way out the building and pounded at the door trying to get out while our brave guide kept him shut in.

At least this year our tour guide made it out alive luckily; I kind of enjoy having Sarah around, alive and all.

When we made it back safely to the lobby to pick up the scaredy cat of our group, I scrolled through the camera to see if I managed to get at least one usable picture. Though I was sure to take a picture in every room, I found that I only had a couple pictures in all and ones I swore I had taken weren't there.

Those included the ones I took of the depiction of Penelope, the supposed ghost lurking in Ellis' bathroom. Who knows maybe Castleton is haunted after all.

OUR TOP 10 GRADUATE MAJORS:

MBA
Physician Assistant
Interactive Communications
Teaching
Biomedical Sciences
Molecular/Cell Biology
Journalism
Nursing
Accounting
Computer Information Systems

MASTERING THE ART OF TEACHING

Sheila Wyciowski, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development at Amity High School, explains, "Basically we look to hire Quinnipiac students. They have a clear understanding of lesson planning and classroom management and the balance between them." She also characterizes Quinnipiac students as articulate, creative, able to encourage higher-level thinking in students, and able to incorporate technology into their teaching.

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If you could have any super power, what would it be?

Anthony Hathaway
"I would have the power to be invisible."

Sarah Leclaire
"I would have the power to obtain all knowledge so I could become world dictator."

Nickie Benway
"I would have the power to fly so I can escape and get away."

Laura Caravella
"I would have the power of love and spread it to everyone so there would be world peace."

Tyler Wood
"My power would be to read minds to evaluate what people think."

Middle East voices visit Castleton

PHOTO BY LYNSEY ADDARIO

Balad, Iraq- A detained Iraqi militant found on an American intellegence compound.

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

On Nov. 2, Reel Action and The Spartan will host the Just Foreign Policy in Iraq and Iran Tour.

It will be considered part of a national movement by the academic group 'Historians Against War,' headed at Castleton by history Professor Carrie Waara. The group is working to have every school use the war as a focal point of their teaching.

According to its Web site, www.justforeignpolicy.org, Just Foreign Policy is an independent and non-partisan organization. The group is "dedicated to reforming U.S. foreign policy to serve the interests and reflect the values of the broad majority of Americans." Furthermore, it advocates a shift to foreign relations through international law, treaties and diplomacy by way of education and mobilization of citizens.

"From this event we want to catch the attention of people who would otherwise not care," said Matt Kimball, president of Reel Action.

The event, from 4:30 p.m. in the Huden Dining Hall, will feature three speakers and an array of war photos by award winning photojournalists.

"Even though Reel Action is known best for showing films, we decided that we could expand our horizons," Kimball said. "When we show film, they are images. The only difference with a photo exhibition is that the images are not moving."

According to the clubs' proposal, the event's purpose is to educate students and faculty on U.S.-Middle East relations. Speakers will include Raed Jarrar, Rostam Pourzal and Antonia Juhasz.

Jarrar, an Iraqi-Palestine blogger, activist and architect, will speak on the current situation in Iraq, militarily and governmentally. He was the Country Director of CIVIC Worldwide, a door-to-door casualty survey in Iraq, and now works as the Iraq Project Director for Global Exchange.

An independent researcher and organizer for human rights in Washington, DC, Pourzal will focus on Washington's "diplomacy" toward Iran. He is the president of the U.S. branch of the Campaign Against Sanctions and Military Intervention of Iran.

Finally, Juhasz, a policy-analyst, author and activist, will discuss the "oil timeline" motivating the invasion and occupation of Iraq. She is an expert on aspects of international trade and finance policy and authored The Bush Agenda: Invading the World, One Economy at a Time.

The photo exhibit will feature the works of Lynsey Addario, Mohammad Kheirkhah, Andrew Stern and Ramin Talaie.

"War is such a phenomenon that just has such a devastating effect," said Professor Sanjukta Ghosh, who helped spearhead the event. "Photos can bring war from there to here. We all know the power of photos."

Castleton will be the third and final stop in Vermont. The first 40 students to attend will be treated to a free dinner.

PHOTO BY LYNSEY ADDARIO

Bagdad as a crowd of thousands of Iraqi civilians pushing to get aid grows more and more unruly in Iraq On May 28, 2003.

Nice to meet you, Andrea

By Jazmin Averbuck
Spartan Staff

Name: Andrea Myer
Nickname: "Andy"
Birthday: "May 23rd"
Hometown: "Brandon, Vermont"
How long have you been working at Castleton State College: "2 months"
Job title: "Cattering Manager"

What do you like most about your job: "social aspect. I love to throw a good party"

What was your dream job: "vetrenarian"

Favorite color: "depends on the mood I am in"

Favorite season: "Summer, I love to be barefoot"

Favorite Arcade game: "Galactica"

Inspiring comment for CSC students: "Be careful in your life choices, but don't let opportunities pass you by."

Alumni profile

Jennifer K. (Gallagher) Jones
Class of 2002

Returning to college full-time after a 14-year absence was absolutely overwhelming, but for me it was absolutely about time.

I received my associate's degree in liberal studies from a community college in 2000, but I had taken classes a little at a time while working full-time and raising a family.

Now the time had come for me to take a leap of faith. I quit my full-time job in exchange for a part-time night-shift position, signed off on every student loan I could take to cover my bills, entrusted my then 4-year-old daughter to her dad at night, and dove in to classes at Castleton.

I was 31-years-old. The "old lady" in all my classes, but this actually was to my advantage, as I would find out.

It is said that age has its privileges. Perhaps this is true, but what I experienced as a "non-trad" was that age has its motivations. I couldn't afford to fail, literally as I had a family to support.

Being so much older than my fellow students and having the experience of living hand-to-mouth in an entry-level job for so many years gave me a motivation that they all lacked. I strived for A's in all my classes. Perfection was my pursuit. If I got a B on a paper, I asked permission to revise and resubmit. I had performed poorly in college in "my previous life" and I was determined to overcome my failures.

I didn't do it alone, however. I have to thank those Castleton professors who allowed me to rewrite and rewrite again until I got it just right -- who weren't bothered at all when I came the second or third time that week during office hours with my many questions.

And they were patient and understanding in other ways too, like when my daughter was sick or when I had to cover another shift perhaps and miss a class. It was through their support and understanding that I graduated.

My story is not unlike so many stories at Castleton. It truly is the small college with the big heart. The staff, faculty, everyone contribute to the warmth and fellowship of the college. That's why when I saw an advertisement for a position at Castleton after I graduated, I applied for the position and was determined to come back.

Thankfully, the search committee agreed that this was the right place for me.

Almost three years later, I am still at Castleton directing the Upward Bound program, and helping to spread my enthusiasm for a college education to potentially first-generation and/or low-income high school students from around Rutland County.

It is the most amazing work I have ever done and I am thankful for the opportunity, an opportunity I would have missed had I not taken that leap of faith in Castleton just a few years ago.

Parker makes governor-hopeful pitch at CSC

By Janet Perron
Spartan Staff

Election Day is fast approaching and politicians, like Democratic gubernatorial candidate Scudder Parker who is trying to unseat Republican Gov. Jim Douglas, are out fighting the political battle.

Although there were numerous empty seats, Parker unveiled his political platform on Oct. 4, at Castleton State College's Herrick Auditorium.

"This state, under my leadership, will be passionately committed to addressing the very real problems that this world faces," Parker said.

"I want to do more for Vermont students," he said, saying he wants, through a stable source of funding, to provide low-income and first-generation students with the money needed to stay in college. That's unlike Douglas's 'Promise Scholarship' program, he said.

Parker not only criticized Douglas' lack of funding for the scholarship program, but called him "a disaster" with regard to future energy strategies.

"He works on politics harder than anyone I know," Parker said about Douglas. "What's behind it and what's the substance, and what's the reality? I think the reality is that Jim Douglas really is a very conservative politician, whose politics is actually really close to the Bush Administration," he added, listing the issues of tax cuts, the war in Iraq, and the privatization of social security.

"When you look at the record there isn't much there," he continued, telling the audience to look at Douglas's affordability agenda. "It is a plate of warmed over leftovers," he said explaining that Douglas has repeatedly proposed a property tax cap and an unworkable housing plan.

Parker went on to say Douglas is "all barn and no hay" and "the performance isn't there."

With his hands moving as he talked and a round Scudder for governor sticker on his lapel going in and out of view, he stated that, "As a candidate what you have to do is persuade people you are going to be a good leader. When you get to be governor or senator you have to prove it," Parker said. "And Jim Douglas hasn't proven it.

Regarding global warming, Parker said he believes it "is the real, and perhaps the largest, single challenge facing the people of this country and this world."

Parker then proudly mentioned his help in founding Efficiency Vermont, which has helped with Castleton's sustainability project.

Parker, 63, although not a native Vermonter, grew up in the North East Kingdom and served for over two decades as a congregational minister.

When asked by a young female in the audience about civil unions and marriage, the Protestant minister said, "I don't want the state telling people what marriage is." He pointed out that it makes a difference calling it a civil marriage versus a civil union, calling it a civil marriage would allow couples the right to take part in their spouse's care if hospitalized.

"My only reason for being in politics is the passionate belief that I can help actually make things different and better for the people of the state of Vermont," Parker said.

If he becomes governor, he said he wants to look back and notice how he helped Vermont with declining energy consumption and a growing economy, all due to wind power, solar panels, intelligent heating systems and thriving small businesses. He hopes Vermont will become a place young people will want to stay and come back to because it will have job opportunities to help them flourish.

He also would like to see the small businesses maintain a means of sustainability, improving the environment and keeping energy costs down, which in turn creates money to be spent on property taxes, education and a healthcare program.

Parker, speaking of advertising and how healthcare programs should focus on prevention, states that this country spends billions of dollars on "un-healthcare" and Vermont needs to build a universal healthcare program for everyone no matter age or employment status.

"It is not about positioning or clever gimmicks or something that looks good; it's about actually getting on with the hard work," he said.

PHOTO BY JANET PERRON

President Dave Wolk announces Scudder Parker.

Cross country teams sweep NAC

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

Michael Sullivan races down a hill during the NAC championships on Saturday. Sullivan came in fourth in the men's race.

By Matt Linden
Spartan Staff

Despite the horrible conditions caused by severe winds and heavy rain, Castleton's cross country teams completed a sweep of the NAC championships on their home turf.

The men's and women's squads provided strong outings to win their respective conference titles, with each sporting at least three runners in the top 10. The sweep of both races gave the two Castleton teams their first NAC cross country title since 2002.

PHOTO BY ENNIS DULING

Elizabeth Halnon

Competing against seven other colleges, the Spartan women kept themselves focused and had a team score of 33 points, which put them ahead of second-place Maine-Farmington by only nine points.

Junior Katie Sprowl led the way with a second place finish, followed by freshman Elizabeth Halnon and junior Justine Campbell. Halnon and Campbell finished in third and fourth place, respectively. The team's fourth top-ten finisher was freshman Maggie Klein, who crossed the finish line in eighth place.

With their impressive performances, Sprowl, Halnon and Campbell were named to the NAC All-Conference team.

"Everyone did exactly what they needed to in order for us to win the NAC's," said Sprowl, the women's team captain. "We knew the race would be tough, but we really came together as a team."

The men's team picked up where the women left off, capturing the conference crown in impressive fashion. In the men's 8 km run, Castleton featured a trio of top finishers and placed first among the five teams competing.

Junior Chris Gatchell continued to be the Spartans' strongest runner, finishing just ahead of teammate Nick Grasso in second place. Grasso's third place finish was his best performance of the year.

Freshman Michael Sullivan completed the race almost a minute after fellow freshman Grasso to finish in fourth place. The three Spartan runners each earned a spot on the NAC All-Conference team.

Throughout the season, Castleton's male runners had to deal with issues bigger than the weekly meets.

"I was very impressed with how the team was able to handle personal issues and constant injuries," men's coach John Klein said. "Through dealing with these problems, we had a better sense of cohesiveness than teams of years past."

In their first season working together as Castleton's head coaches, Blair Marelli and John Klein helped put the team in position to extend their recent success, after winning the conference title last weekend.

The next challenge for the Spartans is the ECAC Championships, which will be held this Saturday at Williamstown, Mass.

"We will be matched up with some of the best runners in the country these next two meets," Klein said. "Although we are not able to recruit with some of the bigger teams, our runners work really hard to improve each week and give us a chance to compete with these big schools."

PHOTO BY ENNIS DULING

From left: Katie McKenna, Justine Campbell, Janet Perron, and Katie Sprowl get ready for their cross country race.

Weather puts a damper on NAC championships

The recent spate of rain caused major problems for Castleton State College sports teams and their respective playoff runs.

Although the women's soccer team was able to get in its quarterfinal playoff game on Sunday, playoff match-ups for the field hockey and men's soccer teams scheduled for Saturday were both postponed.

And when play was able to resume on Monday, both teams were forced to travel because of poor field conditions. The fourth seeded field hockey team went to fifth-seeded Lasell College and the fourth seeded men's soccer team traveled to fifth seeded Mount Ida College.

"I don't recall them ever being this bad. The field hockey field is just under water," said Jeff Weld, Castleton's communications and sports coordinator.

As of The Spartan's deadline, the field hockey team was leading 1-0.

The women's soccer team lost a 2-1 heartbreaker to Mt. Ida College on Sunday, putting an end to their season with a final overall record of 9-9-2, but with an even more impressive 7-4-1 NAC regular season record.

Head coach Chris Chapdelaine had nothing but praise for his team on Monday, saying his young team fought hard in every game "which is all a coach can ask."

"It was a tough game, back and forth. We went down late in second half by a goal, but the girls fought back and scored two minutes later. They fought there hearts out. Then Mt. Ida scored with about four minutes left," he said. "Even then, they kept fighting."

Chapdelaine said he's looking forward to next season already, with nine returning starters. He said it was tough to try to repeat as champions this year, especially with 11 freshmen.

"But we lost a lot of one goal games," he said. "You win those five and it's pretty much the same team."

If the men's soccer team or field hockey team gets to the finals, they will be played on Saturday, Nov. 4, Weld said.

Tennis team loses in NAC championships

By Matthew Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

Without the veteran leadership from years past, the women's tennis team was originally considered an underdog to defend their two-straight conference titles.

But entering the NAC Championships with a record of 6-6, the Spartans had put themselves in position to contend for the conference crown once again.

This year's championships were held on the Leicester, Mass. campus of Becker College, where Becker, Bay Path College and Johnson State all looked to unseat them as this season's champions.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY PAUL COHEN

The tennis team poses after their NAC game: Left to right: Mallory Wilson, Meg Kuczynski, Emily Hallett, Charla Klaas, Paul Cohen (head coach), Lauren Kuenzel, Jamie Olson (capt.), Dale Gray

At the end of the first day of competition, Castleton was in the driver's seat and had a lead going into the NAC Finals. Lauren Kuenzel, Emily Hallett, Meg Kuczynski and Charla Klass each won their first singles match, while the duos of Klass and Hallett and Kuczynski and Mallory Wilson advanced in the doubles competition.

"The team was simply tenacious in the semis," said head coach Paul Cohen. "I could not have been more pleased with the way we played that day. Unfortunately, it seemed like we used up most of our energy in the semis."

Castleton struggled during the tournament's final day and suffered defeat in five out of six singles matches. Team captain Jamie Olson was the lone singles victor of the day, winning a consolation match over Jackie Souza of Bay Path.

Kuczynski and Wilson lost in their doubles final, but the team of Klass and Hallett were victorious in a dramatic match against a pair of Bay Path players, giving Castleton its only flight champions of the tournament.

The Lady Spartans finished the NAC Championships in third place, ending their reign of consecutive conference titles.

"I was most proud of the team for putting us in a serious position to win," Cohen said. "We have now set the bar at a high level and have something to strive for next year."

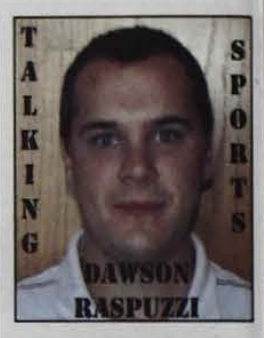
Cohen, in his 15th season with Castleton, was unsure exactly what to expect from a young and inexperienced team.

"To be honest, my expectations were temperate, but hopeful," he said. "Once I noticed that our players provided a very good nucleus, I knew we could do some damage."

The team had lost its senior leadership from last year's championship squad, and two seniors who were supposed to play this season chose to pursue other commitments.

Although they lacked a core of veteran players, the women's team made up for it with their intensity and hard-hitting style of play.

"This was a very exciting season for me," Cohen said. "I got a lot out of it on a challenge standpoint, and I believe the same could be said for the team. We will come back even stronger next year."



Disagree all you want, steroids improve the game

Steroids are as big of a part of professional sports these days as Don King's hair is to his reputation.

Shawne Merriman's positive testing for the steroid nandrolone this past week may have come as a surprise to some, but the fact that professional athletes use steroids is no longer a secret.

People can complain that steroids have ruined sports, but in my mind they haven't at all. Everybody talks about how using steroids is cheating, but if every team has these guys, which I'm sure that they do, then it levels the playing field.

Obviously there are major health risks that come with using steroids, but if players have accepted these risks on their own bodies, then I can too.

Hey, it isn't my health, so who am I to tell them they shouldn't do it.

I'm like anyone, I like seeing guys hit 500-foot homers. I like watching faster plays and bigger, harder hits.

If a guy can throw a ball a couple of miles-per-hour faster or a few feet farther because of steroids, than it becomes an even more exciting event.

Pro-athletes are entertainers. They get paid big money to attract people to watch them, and if taking steroids is going to help put on a better show, then fine.

You wouldn't want to see a beauty pageant where none of the contestants are allowed to wear makeup right?

You may argue that it isn't fair that someone like Barry Bonds will break the all-time homerun record only because he used steroids when players from past generations didn't.

It's true, he will. But who cares?

If steroids were around when Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb were playing, they would have snatched them up faster than a fat kid gobbles movie theater popcorn.

But they weren't around then, so they couldn't. Because air conditioners weren't around during that time either, should cool air be banned from clubhouses in the summer?

If you still think it's wrong, then when Bonds hits homerun number 756 tell yourself that Hank Aaron still holds the record in your mind and get on with your day. I know I will.

Why are people who use steroids looked at as such bad people when someone who flops to draw a fowl, or drops a ball, but pretends that he didn't is just someone playing smart?

If players are using steroids, then it shows that they care about winning along with their personal performance.

They are doing everything that they can to perform at their highest potential, and if they are willing to risk their health to hit a ball harder then who can blame them.

If you don't agree with this and refuse to watch steroid controlled athletes, there's still professional bowling, although when the PBA starts a steroid testing policy that may be lost as well.

My only problem with steroids and the people who use them is that they never just admit to using them and accept the consequences.

Merriman said that if he took steroids, it was unintentional. Rafael Palmeiro has the worst case of denial.

Palmeiro, who is one of the all-time great hitters, tested positive for steroids in 2005 and he still denies that there's any way he took steroids.

Well if a blood test says that you did then I'm going to believe it even if you plead ignorance.

It's pretty hard to unknowingly take steroids.

I don't believe for a second that anybody puts something into his or her body without knowing what it is.

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THE SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, November 15, 2006

Ecstasy: A look at both sides of the 'roll'

By Krystie Mynard
Spartan Contributor

Editors Note: Because of the sensitive nature of this story, the names of those involved have been changed.

Stacy grasps her mouth, and jumps off the couch in a desperate sprint to the bathroom. Merely three feet away a projectile splash of water and mushrooms coat the floor. She continues to the bathroom and makes it to the sink before another cascade of dinner and water spill into the sink.

"I think I popped," says Stacy re-entering the living room, and wiping her face with a towel.

The four friends, Stacy, Tanya, Liz, and E-Lord, wave their intense florescent pink and green glow sticks about three inches from their faces, staring in awe. They individually sway their heads from side to side to the techno music playing.

Their "roll" has begun as the ecstasy slowly warms the back of their neck and continues rising.

On April 1, 2004, ABC aired, "Ecstasy Rising," an in-depth report by Peter Jennings that corrected false information regarding ecstasy's physical repercussions. The ABC special unveiled the government's false accusations that ecstasy creates holes in the brain, in an effort to control the fastest growing drug in the 1990's.

Jennings brought this rumor to a screeching halt with his findings. He was able to reveal reliable information that brought truth to the public and discredited the government. He spoke with all the major players including Alexander Shulgin, the chemist who was the first to report ecstasy's effect, Michael Clegg, the businessman who gave Ecstasy its name and began commercializing the drug, and the drug enforcement officer who fought to make ecstasy illegal.

This new information caught the attention of many ecstasy users, who were thrilled to know their brain wasn't turning into Swiss cheese.

But Castleton State College nurse Deb Choma and other drug and alcohol experts say that while ecstasy may not cause holes in your brain – it

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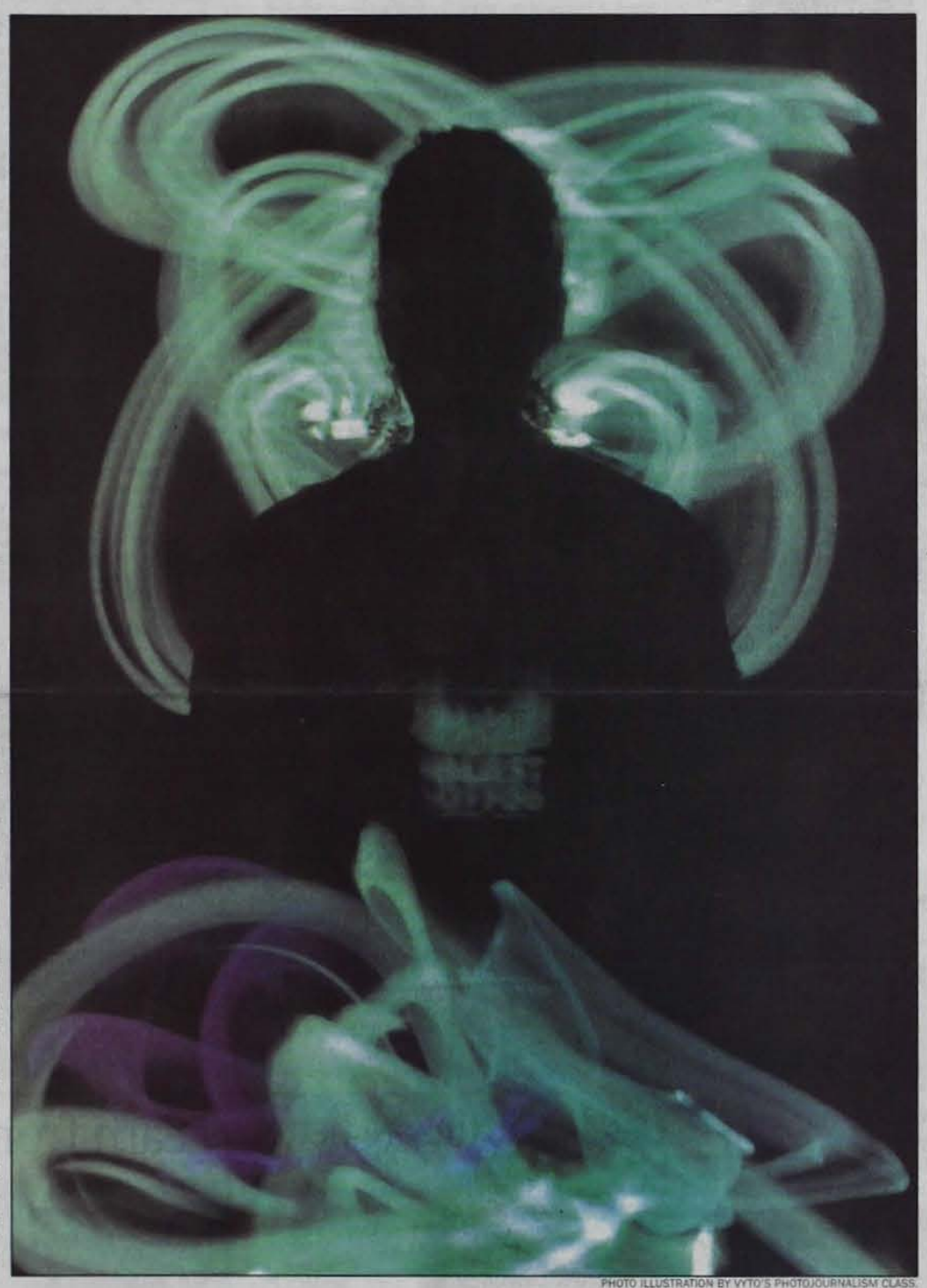

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY VYTO'S PHOTOJOURNALISM CLASS.

Headless mascot

By Jeremiah Behnken and Jeremy Bigelow
Spartan Contributors

The people of Castleton State College are calling for the head of the Spartan – literally.

According to Dean of Students Gregory Stone, the head of the Spartan mascot costume has been missing since the last week of September.

The ice hockey team had asked to use it for an event and it was discovered that it wasn't where it was supposed to be, with the rest of the costume.

"As would be expected, I am not happy that it is missing," Stone said. "We spent the month of October thinking someone had it and just forgot to return it or it got misplaced. I think that someone has taken it now."

Although some people, like freshman Vince McNulty, may think that this is just another harmless prank, that point of view irritates Stone. McNulty, when told about the missing head, said that it was "an awesome prank to pull."

But with a value of more than $2,000 it's nothing to laugh at, Stone said.

The Spartan is the symbol of Castleton State College's pride, the very essence of the Castleton community. The suit is made up of two large black boots, a black belt, like what Trojans wear, black gloves, a long green cape and, of course, the head.

While some see it as funny, the loss of the mascot head has caused unrest among students and faculty.

Victoria Angis, the assistant dean for campus life, shared Stone's first reaction to the Spartan's missing head.

"I thought that somebody had borrowed it and not returned it on time," Angis said. "I couldn't believe that anybody could stoop so low as to steal it."

Zachary Briggs, a member of the basketball team, said he hadn't heard about the theft, but he said he hopes it gets returned.

"That is going to suck – not having it at our games – if it's

Please see **Head,** *PAGE 6*

Photojournalists provide alternate view of Middle East

By Shou Watanabe
Spartan Staff

If America really wants to help Iraq, the troops should leave and take their idea of a picture-perfect democracy with them, an Iraqi-Palestinian blogger told students on Nov. 2.

"The best way to support democracy and human rights and social change in Iraq and Iran is to just leave them. Leave them, I don't need someone to come 10,000 miles away to come and liberate us," Raed Jarrar shouted out with his hands waving and his eyes wide.

Jarrar, a native of Iraq, was one of three speakers to visit Castleton to present a Just Foreign Policy program aimed at educating students about what is actually happening in Iran and Iraq. They said the media is telling us only the cleaner, American side of what is happening in those countries.

The speakers were accompanied by graphic, award-winning photos from Iraq, Iran and Lebanon showing everything from war to revolution.

When viewing the photographs after the event, some students became emotional; especially when they viewed one taken in Lebanon by Andrew Stern entitled "Ambulances Bombed by Israeli Warplanes."

"That's really messed up," said Matt Kimball, who helped organize the event through the Reel Action Club.

"Oh my God! That's just wrong," echoed fellow student Colleen Senecal.

It was the group's third stop of their tour across New England, leaving 13 more stops ahead of them.

"People in the U.S. in general are getting used to this norm of interceding in other people's business," Jarrar said.

He told students that he believes that the United States and other countries are just making things worse and creating a more complicated situation. It's a disaster that's been going on for the last century, he said.

Author of 'The Bush Agenda,' Antonia Juhasz, backed up Jarrar's beliefs by citing statistics done by the Bush adminis-

Please see **Photojournalists,** *PAGE 7*

PHOTO BY SHOU WATANABE
Mathew Tuthill examines pictures of Iranian women voting.

CORRECTIONS

A story in last edition of *The Spartan* incorrectly quoted cross country coach John Klein as saying that the men's cross country team had suffered several injuries. The women's team suffered the injuries.

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COMING NEXT ISSUE

A preview of Castleton's first ever Box City.

Huden hosts The Third Place–a drinking social.

HUMAN GENRE

BY JESSE DURONA

Stupid is as stupid does for stupid's sake

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

I was in a good mood this morning.

The brisk November wind sliced through the crack in my apartment door as the weight of a potential snow sat patiently in the atmosphere outside.

I was well rested, which is a rare feat in itself these days, and I didn't melt my tongue to blisters with that college crutch known as coffee.

It was one of those ol' fashioned, good-to-be-alive mornings – a day to sit back without a care in the world, while slowly soaking in the comforts of a lazy Saturday.

I was happier than Jim Morrison in a swimming pool full of Southern Comfort.

Then I read the paper.

Somewhere in the span of a few minutes I went from John Denver 'Sunshine On My Shoulders'-happy, to Black Sabbath's "War Pigs"-pissed.

What set me off, you ask?

What was it that made me feel the urge to punt my sister's Chihuahua through a stained-glass church window?

I'll tell you what it was – stupid people.

I'm not sure if that word is entirely politically correct or not (perhaps "absent-minded" or "mentally-void" would work better), but frankly, I don't give a crap.

By the time you read this, the International Paper Mill in Ticonderoga, N.Y. will have begun their long-awaited effort to burn some 72 tons of tires a day for the next two weeks. The company wants to test the levels of pollution that are emitted from the burn into the atmosphere, and eventually hopes to use shredded tires as a means to fuel the factory's massive power boilers.

Practically every political figure in Vermont has been vigorously fighting this action for the last three years, but federal courts finally decided to give IP the go-ahead anyway.

Oh, did I mention that International Paper, which is located just across the lake (Champlain) from my home town of Orwell, is already the number one cause of pollution in the state of Vermont – and the factory isn't even on Vermont soil.

Take a moment to breathe, if you will, and join me in one giant, resounding, "WTF!?"

Did I miss something? Did I get lost in a Bowie-induced trance one too many times and miss out on some new environmental trend?

I'm just curious, when has it EVER been environmentally friendly to release colossal cancer-causing black clouds into the earth's atmosphere? And better still, when did it become ok to take one state's filth and spread it on another?

It's like that dirty little kid at a birthday party who picks his nose – then wipes it all over your couch.

It's unnecessary, unacceptable, and is as disgusting as a barbed-wire enema. There is no reason for any of this madness.

What year is it? 2006, right? You mean to tell me that now, at the height of the technological revolution, that we can't come up with a power source that is more environmentally friendly than char-broiled Firestone treads?

I understand that IP is a necessary evil: they employ hundreds of people, and without the company, many people in the already dilapidated job market of Ticonderoga would be without jobs. Factories like IP make the economy go 'round (for now at least), and I too spend the vast majority of my week grinding it out amidst chemical fires and metal splinters at a factory in Rutland.

But my factory doesn't use New York as a snot rag, either.

There are plenty of ways to produce energy for these factories that are not only cost-effective, but also environmentally friendly. The problem is that so many of these factories are so far behind in the stone age that they are unwilling to invest the time necessary to get themselves up to code and move into the 21st century.

Here's an idea for companies like IP. Stop thinking with your wallets and start thinking long-term. Think about it. Who's going to be left to run the factory if everyone working there (and those living in the surrounding areas) is eventually killed-off by cancer clouds?

Stop being stupid and do something for the people that make your company profitable in the first place. After all, you can't bite the hand that feeds you forever, you know?

Eventually someone might bite back.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Perhaps the only thing more appalling than sports columnist Dawson Raspuzzi's recent column, which condones steroid abuse, is your decision to keep him on the sports staff.

Does this guy think he's Rush Limbaugh? Does he really need to shock people with outrageous opinions just to have his voice heard? A person of any moral fortitude could not seriously write a pro-steroids column that ignores the harmful effects of steroid abuse. "If players have accepted these risks on their own bodies, then I can too," he writes.

OK, here is a perfect analogy: Society should legalize heroin because it is the individual addict's choice to abuse the drug. The fact that the drug is addictive and harmful (steroids are both) does not matter.

Is this the kind of society Americans want to live in, though?

How about the thousands upon thousands upon thousands of grammar school boys whose biggest goals in life are to play Major League Baseball? Professional athletes are role models - anyone who disagrees has never seen a kid who adores his or her favorite home run hitter. Raspuzzi thinks it's OK to send the following message to these youngsters:

"Hey kids! Baseball is a great game and America's pastime. But in reality, the only way you will ever fulfill your dream is to stick a needle into your skin, and cut years off of your life because of the liver damage caused by prolonged abuse! So here's your syringe, kids! It's time to become part of the level playing field. Let's get the juice pumping!"

He sends that exact message by writing that steroid abuse is OK because everyone is doing it, creating a level playing field. It's probably true that the majority of professional athletes have used steroids. The fact that they're all doing it doesn't make it OK, though. It is dangerous to think otherwise.

The support Raspuzzi provides for his position takes just as pathetic a tone as the message itself. "You wouldn't want to see a beauty pageant where none of the contestants are allowed to wear makeup, right?" he writes. He's correct. I know I wouldn't watch it. But does makeup cause problems in the human reproductive system, or cancerous tumors?

Does nail polish pump false hormones into the body, causing liver damage? Last time I checked, the only way nail polish is harmful is when it's inhaled. Both steroids and makeup are performance enhancers, yes. Raspuzzi ignores the fact that steroids are harmful, while makeup is not.

I can picture Raspuzzi's next argument already: "Would you want to watch an infielder take ground balls without his glove? Well, a glove makes him field ground balls better, so technically, it's a performance enhancer."

Raspuzzi adds that people often complain that steroids have "ruined" sports. This is another falsehood. Just because people are concerned about athletes setting harmful examples, does not mean people are turned off to sports in general. Baseball's ratings are higher than ever, but this is not because of steroids, as Raspuzzi would have his readers believe.

It is because of series like both 2003 and 2004 ALCS. Both were epic battles between heated rivals: Boston Red Sox vs. New York Yankees. People will never turn their backs on baseball because of the history of the game. Steroids put that pastime at risk by jading statistics in the record book.

A wonderfully fun part of baseball is comparing today's players to players of the past. How can we compare Barry Bonds to his godfather Willy Mays? Had Mays used steroids, he might have hit 1,000 homers!

Raspuzzi writes that Babe Ruth would have abused steroids had they been around. Correct me if I'm wrong, but the time machine has yet to be invented. Who is Raspuzzi to determine which guys would and would not have used? It's not as though every contemporary athlete has used illegal performance enhancers. The guys who don't are at a competitive disadvantage because they choose not to ruin their bodies.

I understand how a player falls into the trap; there's a lot of money on the line and it's a competitive free agent market. What I cannot understand is how a columnist, whose intentions are no nobler than to shock readers, can condone rampant steroid abuse in professional sports. He is clearly unfit to hold a columnist position at your paper.

He even contradicts himself by writing that guys should confess when they test positive.

His entire column talks about how players should be allowed to use steroids. If this is true, then why should drug tests be in place at all? Heck, let's allow every American to do whatever he or she wants. Who cares about the consequences?

I would ask that you please refrain from printing another Raspuzzi column. He is misinformed, and reflects poorly on your otherwise strong news outlet.

Sincerely,

John Keegan

I'm writing in response to an article I read in the latest edition of *The Spartan*, in "Dawson on Sports".

I disagree entirely with his article and I think that what he wrote is completely ridiculous. How could anyone who cares about sports in the slightly degree think that steroid use is perfectly fine.

Yes everyone knows that many professional althethes use steroids, but that's no reason for it to be ok. So many people look up to them, including children, that's like telling a 10 year old that because Barry Bonds uses steroids to play better so can he. It's ridiculous.

If we allow professional athletes to all use steroids to "make the game more interesting" its just going to make the game stupid. Who wants to watch a bunch of juiced up guys run around on a field. I know I don't. As for Babe Ruth, I highly doubt that he would use steroids even if they were around during his era. Using steroids is cheating.

And I don't believe that the best baseball player of all time would ever cheat, especially in such a low way. After reading this article, obviously written by someone who knows nothing about sports, I'm surpised that someone would let this run in the paper. I now want nothing to do with this paper again.

Jennifer Sasso

Have something to say?

Contact *The Spartan* at thespartan@castleton.edu, or call Ext. 6067.

Get a Mac, they're better

By Jesse Durona
Spartan Staff

In May 2006, Apple began running a series of television ads comparing their computers with Windows. These charming, light-hearted commercials put "Mac" and "PC" side by side, personified; the latter a prissy little man in a suit, the former a laid back kid in casual wear.

The ads compare the two in light of their strengths and weaknesses including performance, security, and software quality are some key issues addressed.

The bottom line? Macs are better than PCs. They provide professional, easy to use software out of the box, they rarely crash (if at all), and they don't get viruses. PCs have very little in-box software, their operating system is unstable, and last year they had about 114,000 known viruses. This is a recipe for disaster, not only for college students, but for any computer user.

But if Macs are so much better than PCs, why don't more people use them? Apple computers has only a very small portion of the market share, and most of their revenue is based on the Ipod. Meanwhile, PCs are sold in almost every department store imaginable, with tons of third-party software supporting them. If asked, the average college student will say they prefer PCs. Furthermore, they will declare that "Macs suck!"

But why do they suck? It's a safe bet that that same student won't have a legitimate answer. "They just do!"

Most people aren't willing to use a Mac because they are simply too used to PCs. Esthetically, they are not much different from each other. Both have folders and windows and programs and icons. Most people seem to think that Macs aren't cool, or are meant for only an elite group of people, such as the latte-drinking, beret-wearing, trend-setting artsy types.

The bottom line is that Macs are a far more reliable product. Take this from someone who has been using Windows since 1995, and recently made the switch. They may be more expensive, but the satisfaction of having a virus-free environment that "just works" is worth every penny. Besides, anyone would pick the laid back kid in casual wear over the prissy little man in a suit.

Learn from mistakes

By David Blow
Spartan Advisor

The trouble with student journalists is that they make mistakes.

They don't know the ins and outs of reporting and writing news stories - which I guess is good, because if they did I wouldn't have a job.

So in the pursuit of news to fulfill both class requirements and fill The Spartan with interesting stories, errors get made.

In a recent Spartan story about the gas price battle among Castleton's four stations, one owner was quoted as calling a competitor "a snake."

The story led to a call to me from the accused and an e-mail from a professor who is friends with the accuser.

The accused said that sort of comment didn't belong in the school paper.

The accuser, through the professor, said he didn't say the comment anyway.

I was left to try to sort it all out.

The student, I learned, had taped the conversation without introducing himself as a reporter and without taking notes in a notebook.

There are good and bad aspects to that, mostly bad. Reporters generally should always introduce themselves and while tape recording is ok -- and legal to do without telling the source according to a Vermont Press Association official -- reporters should always take notes too.

In this case, the tape recorder revealed that the accusor had called the accused a snake, although he said he meant it as a broad statement about some gas station owners who play around with pricing - not specifically about the accused. He said it was taken way out of context.

Regarding the accused's comments that those types of comments don't belong in The Spartan, I guess I disagree.

I guess I like to treat The Spartan as if it were a daily newspaper and if someone says something powerful, I'd say it's ok to use it.

Now again, the student erred in his original story by not contacting the accused for his side, which I made sure he did before the story ran. During that conversation, the accused snake said he meticulously discussed how gas prices are devised, which the student reporter ignored. He probably should have mentioned at least some of that conversation, to add context to the story.

But I guess I don't see a problem with controversial comments.

I'm purposely not naming names in this column in an attempt to not pour gas on the fire. And I guess the reason I felt compelled to write it is to drive home the fact that these are student reporters, who in some cases are working on their first news story ever.

Mistakes are going to be made. The important thing is that we learn from them and work hard to not repeat them.

Dispatch from a world away
I'm proud of the Peruvian youth

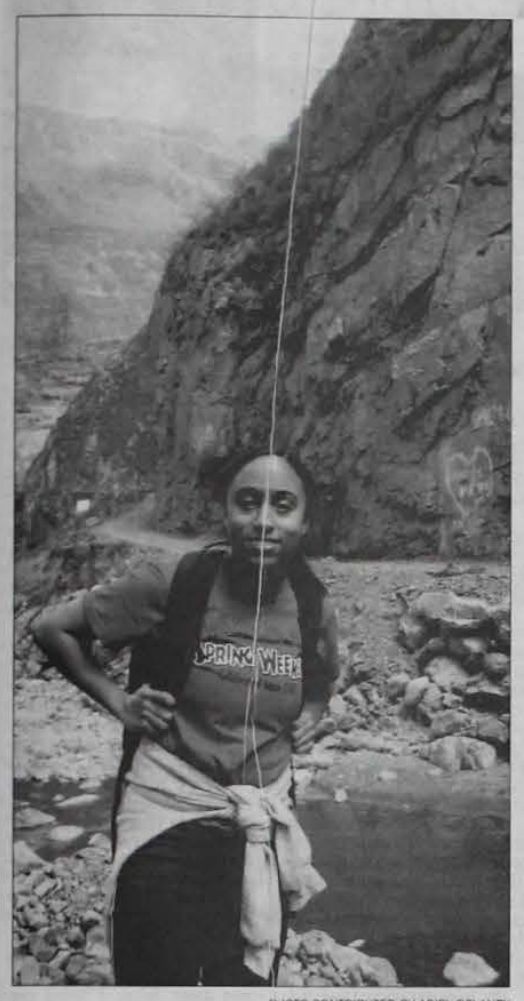


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ARIEL DELANEY

Ariel takes a breather on the 10 mile trek to the Incan ruins at Masaak.

By ArielDelaney
Spartan Staff

The heat from the spring in Lima is not the only thing warming up the days.

Municipal elections are up coming on the 19th of this month and to be quite honest I was really surprised at the political process here.

One of my schoolmates, Alejandra, who is in her first year of school, recently turned 18 and will be able to vote for the first time.

As a learning process, I went to see how she registered. Most every Peruvian has what is called a DNI, document of identification.

They are library-like cards with a lot of information - almost down to one's favorite color. When we entered the town hall of our district, La Molina, I saw an unusual scene.

The room was packed with jovenes, youth, all with their blue cards applying to vote. I have to admit, it was really awesome!

Curiosity was eating at me so I finally started ask questions. Well, it turns out that voting is obligatory in Peru. Those who don't, pay 100 soles in fines, about $30 in the United States.

All the local candidates plastered the sidewalks handing out propaganda, as they call it here. As anyone can imagine, the town halls are packed with people - especially youth who outnumber any other population.

All this activity centering on the election and voting really made me think about how the candidates visit the local universities in search of support at home.

I asked Ale, her nickname, if they were going to come to our university and I received a surprising no. Ale looked at me with a that's-a-good-idea look on her face.

On the way to my 7 a.m. Peruvian literature class, Ale asked me if I had read today's paper.

It turns out that the youth are really involved here. A group of first-year students here got a significant amount of signatures asking for the university to hold a debate for all the candidates to present their views.

It actually made news in El Comercio, Peru's largest paper.

Not every politician has accepted, but I couldn't help feeling a bit of pride for the youth.

Mills: 'Dignity, beauty, and hope'

By Janet Perron
Spartan Staff

He was standing on a chair in front of an open window rocking back and forth thinking 'just let go.'

Somehow he found the strength to step down and search for incentive to go on.

Until the urge to kill himself passed, Billy Mills kept writing 'Gold medal, 10,000 meter run, believe, believe, believe.'

Mills almost let other people's perceptions defeat him that day, but he held on and became the 1964 Olympic gold medalist in the 10,000 meter run.

Overcoming hardships seems to be what Mills spent much of his life doing and during his keynote speech in Glenbrook Gymnasium on Nov. 7, he told a large audience what he had conquered and the perceptions he has defeated.

Being half Sioux Indian and half Caucasian, Mills never felt he belonged on Pine Ridge Reservation in North Dakota where he was born, or off it, in the white world.

'You, the dark skinned one, we want you out of the picture,' Mills recalled of the three times in his younger years being asked to step out of photographs with white athletes and being spit on and called 'prairie nigger.'

Mills had many stabs to his pride and motivation while in pursuit of his dreams. He was orphaned by age 12, living in one of the poorest communities in America, sleeping in an abandoned car while working because there were no jobs on the reservation. And then there was his college track coach, who constantly told him his desire to be an Olympian was not practical.

Mills triumphed and became an Olympian, but there were more motivational barriers to overcome.

On the bus to the Olympics, he sat with a Polish woman who asked what he was competing in. Mills told her the

10,000 meter run and she asks 'who do you think is going to win?' He said nothing and then the woman gave him a choice between two big name runners, a choice that did not include him. Having difficulty pushing the words off his tongue, he said "I'm going to win." The woman then asked 'who are you?'

Those same words were asked of him from a Japanese man right after winning the gold medal.

The lack of respect continued when with an athlete still on the track and the next event soon to start, Mills was not allowed to run the victory lap. In 1984 when the film 'Running Brave' was released, he went back to Tokyo to run his long awaited lap. While jogging, after recent knee surgery, Mills said he could hear the crowd.

He paused, pulling his wife Pat's ticket stub from his pocket, and looked up at where she sat at the games.

He said he's thankful he borrowed the $1,000 for her to be there 20 years earlier, after questioning if he really needed her there. Half-way through the race he almost gave up, then he saw her in the crowd cheering, which was enough motivation to keep going.

As he jogged across the finish line, he realized the stadium was empty with the exception of his clapping wife.

Being Sports Illustrated Athlete of the Century for South Dakota and with his 10,000 meter win being considered one of the biggest Olympic upsets, Mills became part of history. However, not everyone remembered him so fondly.

At the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, while continuing the family tradition of attending the Olympics, Mills overheard some men talking. They spoke of 1964 when 'that Indian guy' won as the best race in history. One man asked 'I wonder what happened to that guy?' and another responded 'I know what happened to him, he's a quitter, an alcoholic.'

Mills, hurt, said nothing, while his daughter begged him to stand up to them. Mills then remembered his father telling him as a child he had broken wings and turned to the men and said, "Excuse me sir are you talking about Billy Mills?"

He told them that by choice he never took drugs or drank and has raised millions of dollars for charities world wide. As the men were apologizing, Mills' daughter turned to him and said, 'You always find the strength to have wings of an eagle.'

Overwhelmed with the echo of his fathers words from his daughter's lips, he left the stadium for a moment to cry.

Mills now uses his stories of suffering and triumph to inspire others to become warriors.

"Find that warrior within you and bring it out," he said before playing a video for the "emerging elite of warriors in the audience," with athletes in history overcoming hardships and ending with the Jesse Owens quote 'Everybody should have a dream.'

Mills lived his dream, now he raises millions of dollars for charities to help youth find their dreams, self-empowerment, bravery, fortitude and generosity. He helps them to use the "virtue of wisdom to make the right choices."

He lives and encourages his father's words, "Every dream has a passion, every passion has a destiny."

Maintaining campus is no easy task
Vandalism spree making it even more difficult

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

Rick Wareing and Bill Bunker keep things looking good.

By Janet Gillett and
Matt Kimball
Spartan Staff

Walking into the carpenter's office, visitors immediately are met with work orders hanging on all the cabinets and organized into files by buildings.

Thousands of dollars worth of vandalized signs, including the Wright house sign, are lying out and currently being worked on by Bill Bunker.

With over half a million square feet of grounds to maintain, physical plant officials try to maintain buildings but are struggling to fix the vandalized items before getting to students' needs.

"I have to prioritize," said Bunker, the only carpenter employed by the department, explaining why students are sometimes left wondering when their stuff will be fixed. "Safety comes first. Sometimes we have to wait for parts and pieces."

Next to the door frame above Bunker's desk hangs the work orders that can only be completed during student breaks. Bunker waits until students leave for these work orders to be completed because many of them raise a lot of dust in the rooms and would be better completed without people walking in and out.

"If it needs to be done, he's the man on the front line," said Rick Wareing, assistant director of physical plant.

While workers focus on fixing vandalized items, students sometimes believe their work orders are being ignored.

"They don't fix a lot of things and they don't get back to people," said student Jess Mascola of Babcock Hall.

But Wheeler Hall custodian Ron Clark is quick to point out that he has not received any personal requests for repairs so far this year.

Some students find that the best way to get their needs met is through face-to-face interaction.

"If there's anything you need and you go to them personally, they are good at giving you what you need or getting you in contact with who can help," said Wheeler Hall resident Katie Sprowl.

The folder of work orders for Wheeler Hall is one of the thickest.

In 12 years at the college, Clark said only one other year has come close to the amount of vandalism inflicted on the dorm this year.

"I don't think students realize custodians have a set schedule," Clark said, explaining that vandalism takes away time from what he would normally work on. "If we have to stop to pick up glass, things don't get done as well as they need to be."

When the Wright House sign was pulled down a couple times, Gary Rogers, the visitor coordinator who works out of the Wright House, said the response time was prompt.

"They keep things looking good," Rogers said. "They do a bang up job."

Budget constraints only allow the physical plant to able to employ one maintenance worker per 14,000 square feet when the national average is one per every 50,000 square feet. Custodians cover an average of about 37,000 square feet, when the national average is 18,000, according to a poster hanging inside the physical plant office. As a result, there are slower response times to student requests.

While every maintenance worker has their area of expertise such as electrician or mechanic, the pool specialist Gordon Austin said they are all "Jack of all trades" and they help out where they can.

In addition to maintaining the grounds and buildings around the campus, physical plant is also charged with getting heat and water to the different buildings.

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

The Wright House sign awaits repairs.

"It's never boring," said Chuck Lavoie, director of physical plant. "There's always something different going on."

As Bunker sat down to organize the clutter of work orders on his desk, Waring reached in and handed him yet another one.

I just had myself a good chuckle. I figured out something that I didn't even think of before.

Shall I explain?

Here in college, we are "on our own." Yet in all reality, how many of us actually are on our own? I found it amusing to discover that all those years dying to get out of my house were wasted. What was I thinking? It's so easy to bum off your parents. At home you have everything you need.

I go home every weekend. I'm sure not many people do this. But I always find some reason. Free laundry. Good food. A comfortable bed. I guess I just didn't realize how many supplies are required to live on your own.

I keep coming up with items I could use, or absolutely can't live without. Those everyday items your parents were responsible for getting at home. Sponges, paper towels, juice, toothpaste.

Windex.

Last week I actually needed Windex. When in my life did I imagine I would need Windex?

We are all in a hurry to grow up, and in so many ways I believe it's harder then ever expected. How prepared is anyone to be on their own? Even after college, so many graduates may even go back home to live and continue to stay there for years.

A lot of people don't even go to college. As my family likes to do, kids often get food, money or babysitting services from their parents' house.

Is it because home is so comfortable, or because it's harder to be out in the world than anyone ever believed? And when does it stop becoming your home?

Technically it isn't your home after you leave. Wherever you live is your home. This resident hall is technically your home now. But I refuse to accept this -- surprisingly.

This could possibly be the freshmen mentality. If you can go back, then go. It's an easier transition -- or an unhealthy one.

As time goes on, this phase will pass. At least it's to be expected. I want to be perfectly settled here if I am expecting to live here for seven more semesters.

Maybe some are better at leaving. Sentimental attachments make it more pleasant to visit where you grew up. But when you think about it, why wouldn't you? I completely get out of buying half the crap I use at school by taking it from back home.

Now don't get me wrong. It's not only the free stuff. My mom and I talk a lot more now, like real "grown ups." I finally appreciate all that I have received.

I miss my family, and I see how they miss me. My dad is a huge softie who buys me Peach Snapple and offers me rides to school. And my mom leaves me notes and snacks for the weekends when I return.

I never thought I'd be happy to go home. It's a getaway from school work, responsibility and to be quite honest, Castleton. It's a nice town, but let's not say it's the most exciting. It gives me something to look forward to at the end of the week. I hang out with my college friends all week, go to classes, finish my assignments and work.

My reward is my home. Some people might find this ridiculous. I don't know how many times I have been ridiculed for leaving on the weekends. I'm sure this will go away, but for now, that's how it goes.

So get off my back about it! I didn't know it was wrong to like going home.

When I was younger, I wondered why anyone would come back after they finally were free. I completely understand now and have discovered that Dorothy definitely had the right idea.

"There's no place like home."

So after you read this, get on the phone and talk to your parents. They'll want to hear from you.

The ABCs of gender in education

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

PHOTO ILLU KSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

It's the first day of school. You're walking through the big double doors and down the cramped, bustling hallways. You've arrived at the classroom and as you enter, a sea of bright-eyed, piggy tail girls stares at you.

And there you stand with your buzz cut and slowly growing facial hair. Feel out of place? You've just walked into a growing phenomenon of single-sex classrooms.

According to the National Association for Single-Sex Public Education (NASSPE), the United States has seen a growth from 1998's four public schools that offered single-sex classroom options to 223 in April 2006. Of those, 44 are entirely gender-separated.

X and Y

Although test results show that boys and girls entering kindergarten perform close to equally, by third grade, the gender gap begins to noticeably show.

Since the 1970s, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has tracked students' scores in reading, math and science. According to the NAEP's long-term trend report, girls have continued to outscore boys in reading. In 1971, 17-year-old females outscored males 291 to 279. In 2004, for the same age group, girls scored 292 and boys were at 278. However, in mathematics, boys have continued to outscore girls. For 9-year-olds, males scored 220 in 1973 and 243 in 2004 while females were at 218 and 240 respectively.

"It's true. I score better in English than the other two (science and math) but I don't know why," said female Castleton student Jay Ette, 18.

As suggested by a report by the American Psychological Association, these differences can be contributed to biological factors, mainly brain structure and sex hormones. NASSPE supports this theory and proposes that different learning styles are developed due to the genetic differences.

"I think it depends on the particular person and how their mind works," said Christine Cook, a 22-year-old English major.

But, some believe that even much more is involved.

"In my experience, differences in test scores is not gender-based," said Castleton Psychology Professor Gail Regan.

"Test scores, generally, not in a particular subject, are a result of so many things: intelligence, investment of time and energy, number of study hours, family attitude about school, etc.," she said.

Boys, Get Out

Now, the question: How to deal with this chromosomal problem? The answer seems to more commonly be single-sex classrooms.

An article titled "The Why Chromosome: How a Teacher's Gender Affects Boys and Girls" that appeared in the fall 2006 issue of Education Next, states that "simply put, girls have better educational outcomes when taught by women and boys are better off when taught by men." The piece was written by Thomas Dee, an associate professor of economics at Swarthmore College, and was based on his research paper, "Teachers and the gender gaps in student achievement."

Previously, theories about the gender gap had been based on information about teachers and students in college, but resulted in mixed findings. However, Dee's study focused on 9 to 17-year olds, when students are more responsive to gender differences.

Concentrating on science, social studies and English, Dee's research found that girls who have a woman teacher raise their achievement by four percent of a standard deviation. When boys have a woman teacher, their percent decreases by approximately the same.

For girls with a same gendered teacher, benefits were mainly concentrated in social studies with a nine percent increase. However, boys with a female teacher suffered the largest effect of a five percent decrease in science.

"The goal was simply to examine. The key thing is that it demonstrates that something is going on," said Dee of the three-year long analysis in a phone interview. "We need to try to understand what that is and if we understand it better, we can raise the achievements of both girls and boys. I hope this stimulates further inquires."

According to an April 2006 article that appeared on National Education Association's Web site, only 37 percent of boys in co-ed classes at Woodward Elementary in DeLand, Fla. passed a state writing test in 2005. In all-male classes, 86 percent passed.

"I think it adds a little bit of comfort. I know from my experiences growing up that I related to female teachers more. Male teachers wanted to make sure it was ok, come talk to me. And the same thing for the male students. They would go to a male teacher before going to a female," said Cook, the 22-year-old female Castleton English major.

However, some students don't see any changes between having a same gendered teacher or not.

"I don't think it really makes a difference," said Ette. "At least for me it doesn't."

And still others believe they learn better from the opposite gender.

"I learn better from women professors," said Chris Mack, 22. "I think the opposite sex is better because you listen better."

Professor Lois Wunderley sees an opportunity for students to try new things not normally associated with their gender. For example, getting boys to try theater and music.

"I think that there are a number of positive factors. It encourages students to focus on academics and broadens participation in extracurricular activities traditionally dominated by the opposite sex," she said.

College Bound

Dee's research does not look into single sex education in colleges. Nor does he consider the effects that these classrooms have on students and their interactions once they reach college or the "real world."

"They probably don't know how to handle it. It's probably a shock and takes some getting use to," said Ette, of students' first experiences in co-ed classes.

Both Cook and Regan agree.

"They're going to have to learn how to work together sooner or later," said Cook. "They're not given the chance to develop and mature when it relates to working with one another."

"The real world will call for the ability to relate to the other gender. If we can help students understand more about how their peers, same-sex or opposite, view the world, that is better than no exposure to the other gender," said Regan.

Discrimination?

"I'm not encouraging single-sex schools," said Dee in defense of his study. "That has been a point of confusion. I'm merely trying to find out what's really going on."

Discrimination issues concerning the research have been brought up, especially by the National Women's Law Center (NWLC).

"The proposed single-sex regulations allow and even encourage harmful sex-stereotyping and authorize a separate and unequal education system in our public schools for girls in the guise of enhanced flexibility," said Marcia D. Greenberger, NWLC Co-President, in a 2004 press release.

The press release stated that the proposal to expand single-sex education would violate Title IX and the U.S. Constitution. Also, the NWLC commented that historically, all female programs have received fewer resources and opportunities.

Dee however doesn't feel that discrimination will be an issue. Rather, it might already, inadvertently, be one and be a cause of the gender gap.

"Teachers unintentionally have a bias," said Dee. "When a boy raises his hand and is called on (by a male teacher), the teacher is more likely to encourage and praise him even if he's wrong. When a girl raises her hand, she is less likely to be encouraged."

Ette believes that such an action is not discrimination, but might lead to it. Meanwhile, Cook thinks that in general, students should remain grouped together.

"It is just basically side-stepping an issue that will have to be dealt with sooner or later," she said.

The longer I live in Vermont, the more things pop out at me telling me I'm not in New Mexico anymore.

Sometimes, it's the weather or the fact that the question 'red or green?' does not exist here (referring to what kind of chile you want). But on Friday, when I went for a run, it struck me how different the people are.

Going for a run through the desert, not many people take notice. It's not that they are too self-absorbed, but there are too many people to track from day to day.

Here in Vermont I keep running across people who know me, but I don't know them. They point out my progress or ask me why they haven't seen me for a couple of months while I was back home.

On my road in Alburg, Vt., I've become known as "the runner." Folks will halt in the middle of the road while they are driving and stop me while I'm running to chat with me. One guy I will never forget introduced himself to me, then told me he wished he had my lungs. I told him I'd trade if he had a pair that wasn't asthmatic.

My neighbors knew how fast and far I ran; they knew my schedule, all this before I even met them. When I found out they knew all this, I was freaked out. Then I came to realize - I'm in Vermont.

Your neighbors actually notice who you are here.

Back home in New Mexico, the only time you'll get a mumble out of people is if you frequent the Tramway Trail. Then you'll get a smile and a wave, but rarely ever a chit-chat.

Safety is another issue.

In New Mexico, it is probably more likely for one to be kidnapped or murdered while running. My grandma even bought me an alarm to ensure my safety from murderers. Yet, I was never worried about that when I was running there.

Then I come to Vermont and I hear gunshots all around me. On Friday all was silent then gunshots boomed through the sky. Since I was running next to the woods and wearing dark clothes - bad choice I know - I could only hope that it was not me being shot at. I'm more afraid of being shot in quaint old Castleton than in bustling Albuquerque.

I wonder what that says about me.

Hunting is something I have yet to get used to, and hope that I don't. I cringe thinking about it, especially if people are hunting when I'm running. I like running in the morning, consequently when people go duck hunting in Alburg. I hear a gunshot then whoosh all the birds go up into the sky. Running through New Mexico is somehow calmer, even though you're more apt to be rushed past by plenty of cars.

While nothing compares to running underneath the pulsating desert sun watching the hot air balloons go up, there's something about running through the woods in Vermont that placates the soul - until the bullets go flying. — Janet Gillett

Castleton reaches their voter registration goal

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

PHOTO BY JESSICA KROLL

Norma Jean Hultman pulls back the curtain after voting in Castleton.

Castleton State College recently participated in a 32-state non-partisan voter registration project sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

The goal of registering 40,000 students nationwide to vote was helped by the 136 registered at Castleton.

More than 70 colleges participated in the project, which was part of a larger effort by Young Voter Strategies to register 350,000 voters in 2006.

"The college age group is the largest block, but politicians aren't paying attention," said Matthew Patry, Castleton Coordinator of the voter registration program. "That's changing a little now because things like this are starting to make a difference."

According to Patry, the program set a goal of each college registering five percent of its student body. For Castleton, that would be 104 students, which was exceeded by 32.

"I'm thrilled. It shows that students are more interested in politics than what they are given credit for," Patry said.

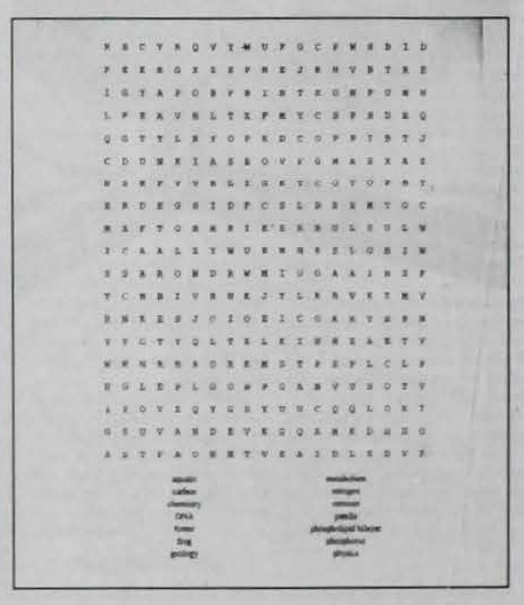
At Castleton, voter registration tables were set-up in Leavenworth, Huden Dining Hall, and at Sustainability Day. Also, eleven faculty members agreed to open their classes for presentations about the importance of voting. In some of the classes, which were randomly selected, the professor was not allowed to speak about the subject.

"It was a great opportunity to be involved in the project. The data collected will be very handy," Patry said. "In the past, we had no idea what the best way was to spread the word about voting and registering."

At other colleges, the experiment also included e-mails, snail mail/flyers and presentations by students rather than faculty.

"The data will produce a great picture of how to get students interested in voting," Patry said. "This year there was definitely an influx. I think we helped."

Word search- Science Association



Man of la Mancha

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

The parable of Don Quixote lived up to its name.

Don Quixote is the Spanish legend of a dream chaser, a charlatan in the eyes of others. Kevin Ginter played Don Quixote, waving around obviously fake weapons. Though the props were supposed to look phony, they detracted from the musical rather than add to the character of Don Quixote.

The stars of the show, however, were not the cast. The horses, played by Heather Barnes and Heather Denardo, stole the limelight. Even when in the background, they were more eye-catching than the action taking place. Not only that but their movement was so synchronized and playful that it was hard to watch Lauren Martin as Aldonza sing about her lifestyle.

That "Man of la Mancha" is a musical saved the show. The singing in Castleton's production last weekend was top notch, but the acting fell way below par. The spoken words seemed forced while the singing was full of heart.

"Man of la Mancha" details how Miguel de Cervantes wrote his novel "Don Quixote." During the Spanish Inquisition, Cervantes was thrown into the dungeon while awaiting his appointment with the Inquisitioners. Cervantes tries to squirm out of judgment from his fellow prisoners by relating the story of Don Quixote in the search for the impossible dream.

PHOTO BY Jacqueline Borelli

Julian DeFelice and Kevin Ginter with the horses, Heather Barnes and Heather Denardo.

It worked.

Through love songs devoted to a mythical Dulcinea, sweetheart, and various fights with the Muleteers, Don Quixote shows how high his head in the clouds. He pledges his love to this Dulcinea, stubbornly refusing to call her by her real name Aldonza, and claims her as his lady although she is basically a prostitute.

Throughout the show, the Muleteers switched into different minor characters—the most surprising being Ken Holmes in his role as the gypsy king where his voice rose higher than Don Quixote's head.

Since there were several scene changes between the prison and the play within the play, the actors were on stage moving around the props, fumbling very little. The scene transitions were mostly done smoothly and efficiently.

Don Quixote's partner in crime Sancho Panza, Julian DeFelice, was a riot. He kept the entertainment rolling as he stuck by Don Quixote's side though trying to lead Don Quixote from the traps he got himself snared into.

Don Quixote's story is interrupted while the Inquisitioners come calling for a prisoner. Cervantes fears the possibility of his death only to be passed over for a hysterical prisoner played by Michelle Page. Through the rest of Don Quixote's story, Cervantes comes to term with his impending death.

Though the story had a good moral, reaching for the impossible dream, it was outwardly stated.

Sounding Off

The place for Soundings Information & Feedback

The home stretch--3 left from which to choose

Upcoming events:

Music

TONIGHT Nov. 15, 7 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center, Shafaatullah Khan

Experience the music of India. Sitar, Surbahar, Tabla--Khan plays them all, and well. Don't know what they are? Come find out.

Dance

Nov. 30, 7 p.m., Fine Arts Center, Koresh Dance Company

High-energy, versatile, fluid, and crisp are the words that came to mind as I watched clips of this dance company at their Web site www.koreshdance.org. Check it out and then come see them in person.

More Music

Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., The Persuasions

A cappella from the soul -- this is a great way to finish your Soundings requirements. Relax, enjoy, and let the end of semester stress fall away for an evening.

Soundings event feedback: Billy Mills

Question: What do you think people's perceptions of you are?

"At the age of 41 some people think of me as a non-traditional student. In some cases, some of the students who don't know me see me as just another old person. However, I run on the cross country team and have made friends with all of the men and women. I am starting to feel now that people's perceptions of me now are more of an athlete, who happens to be 41." David Burrows

"I think people have certain views of me because I skateboard. People think skateboarders are "hoodlums" who destroy property and do drugs. In essence they think I am a punk just because I take part in skateboarding. This has taught me not to place stereotypes on people and to get to know everyone before judging them." Justin Mallock

"I feel people perceive me in many different ways. First, I am a black male attending Castleton so many students' and teachers' first impression is that I might be intimidating or my demeanor is too aggressive. It's hard being a black male in an all-Caucasian society because many people don't want to accept you but it's a struggle I've been going through since Day 1." Ricky DaCosta

"I believe that some people don't really know who I am. People sometimes take me as someone who thinks too high. They laugh at my opinions and my beliefs. However, I do not care. I believe that someday I will reach my goal regardless of my disability. Like Billy Mills, I hope to shock the world. I want people to know that I am not a pushover. I will succeed in my life!!" Michael O'Donnell

Question: What has Billy Mills' presentation inspired you to do?

"The thing that inspired me the most was to just follow my own dreams. Everyone has plans for me but none of them ask me what my dreams are or what I want to do. Just what they think I should do." Roie Farman

"To do something with my life and make my surroundings a better place. I want to teach after college and his speech was the heart of my teaching philosophy. I want to help all the children I teach strive to do something with their lives." Chad Quirion

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Was it a success? A flop? Please contact a Soundings instructor or Spartan advisor David Blow to share your thoughts.

Book review: Female Chauvinist Pigs by Ariel Levy

By Betsy Parks
Spartan Staff

I often fall asleep watching Comedy Central after The Daily Show and The Colbert Report are over. In fact, when I say often, what I really mean is every night except Friday.

I don't sleep all the way through the night, however. Usually sometime around 1 a.m. I roll over to hear a warning about a the following content being only appropriate for ages 18 and older followed by some oversexed college girl cooing to the camera, "it's my first tiiiime…" and I shut off the T.V. in tired disgust.

So you can imagine my delighted surprise when I caught an Oct. 10 appearance with 30-year-old New York City writer, Ariel Levy, on The Colbert Report promoting the trade paperback release of her latest book "Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture."

Finally, a woman willing to address one of the most perplexing issues facing women and feminism in today's culture. And quite frankly, I hoped Levy had idea as to why any woman would want to get naked and make out with her best friend in front of a stranger with a camera for only the promise of having millions of creepy guys (and let's be honest, potential employers) rent her video from which she gets none of the profits. Oh, I almost forgot, they get a free ill-fitting tee-shirt, too.

In her easily-readable analysis, Levy argues that as our culture allows a higher and higher threshold for sexual content, objectification of women and pornography, so too increases a woman's belief that they must act either like the highly-sexualized icons of our time (eg: Paris Hilton, Jenna Jameson, Pamela Anderson), or they should become 'one of the guys' and enjoy a lap dance from a woman at a strip club or maybe high five during episodes of "Sex and the City" when Kim Cattrall's Samantha describes an obscure sex act.

But Levy actually approaches the topic without coming across as an unreasonable, raving feminist. While she unabashedly admits to idolizing the 1970s pioneers of the feminist movement, she takes an understanding approach as to why women would believe that they need to become more 'male' in their approach to sexuality to be feminine - thanks to mixed and divided factions of women's empowerment and the sexual revolution.

She backs up her analysis with personal interviews, including college-aged girls at the beach on spring break as they are approached by Girls Gone Wild. When asked by the cameramen to flash their breasts, the girls resist taking off their swimsuit tops until they are surrounded by a mob of men whipped into a frenzy by the GGW crew. They soon relent under the pressure of the mob chanting 'take it off' and pumping their fists in the air.

There is also a troubling interview with a high-school girl who describes how women her age feel intense pressure to dress extremely sexually in order to get the attention of their male classmates. When Levy explains that sexy styles were not nearly as popular even ten years ago, the girl retorts (sarcastically), "So how did you get the guy, charm?"

In all, Levy does an excellent job at addressing the newest obstacle to women's equality. Sadly, the raunchy attitudes of many women today are not only extremely prevalent, but are even considered empowering and hip. Thanks to minds like Levy's, women may yet realize that acting like a brainless whore is actually hurting women's status and power – not to mention personally embarrassing. So if you've ever wondered what's up with those slutty Bratz dolls, or why one of this summer's big hits was Nelly Furtado's "Promiscious," or even

Entertainment Corner

Deftones: Saturday Night Wrist

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

The Deftones strike again.

The latest album from the band hit record stores on Halloween, the perfect date to release an eerie experimental metal album.

The Deftones are a nu-metal band from Sacramento, Calif. The band consists of Chino Moreno (vocals, guitar), Stephen Carpenter (guitar), Abe Cunningham (drums), Chi Cheng (bass) and Frank Delgado (turntables/keyboards).

They are legends in their own time and are credited as one of the fathers of the nu-metal movement or what critics call "rage rock."

The band first landed on the music scene in 1995 when they released their debut album 'Adrenaline.' The album had moderate success with '7 words' and 'Bored' being minor hits with the alternative crowd.

Their second album 'Around the Fur' was released in 1997 and grew to become a huge hit being certified as Gold in 1999. Tracks 'My Own Summer (Shove it)' and 'Be Quiet and Drive (Far Away)' were major hits. 'My Own Summer (Shove it) was a song also featured on the 'Matrix Soundtrack.'

The Deftones reached their maturity when they released their third album, 'White Pony' in 2000. The album debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard 100 Charts and reached multi-platinum status. The major hit on this album was 'Change (In the House of Flies),' which was featured on the 'Queen of the Damned Soundtrack.' The Deftones also received a Grammy for Best Metal Performance for the song 'Elite.'

But in 2003, the Deftones started to go downhill with the release of their self-titled fourth album. The first single, 'Minerva,' was a great disappointment to metal heads. The song was airy, melodic and slow paced lacking the primal energy of previous albums. The band made up for 'Minerva' with their second single 'Hexagram' a song worthy of head banging.

I first heard songs off the new album in September at the Family Values Tour and sadly I must say it put me to sleep. With the newest album 'Saturday Night Wrist' the band has almost completely abandoned metal.

The first single, 'Hole in the Earth,' has that airy, melodic, stellar, slow paced sound first heard in 'Minerva.' The only songs off the album that may save the Deftones from the ridicule of metal heads are 'Rapture,' 'Rats! Rats! Rats!' and 'Beware.' These songs have the typical nu-metal sound; fast paced, tribal drumming, bass guitars in drop D and a vocalist who sings with a raw primal scream. Interestingly enough, the album features a song titled 'U, U, D, D, L, R, L, R, A, B, Select, Start' a widely used Konami video game cheat code.

The Deftones of the past sound similar to other nu-metal artists such as KoRn, Staind, and Taproot. This new sound coming from the band is somewhat unique, yet it does remind me of Incubus another band to go from hard and heavy to a more melodic sound.

See a provocative film
Nov 16, 5:30 PM
Herrick Auditorium
FREE PIZZA!

Questions?
write to: reelaction@castleton.edu

'16 Blocks' doesn't disappoint

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

The other day I watched the not-so-popular movie, '16 Blocks.' Yet again I was deceived by a movie title! I for sure thought this movie was about 16 blocks, like toy blocks or building blocks to a promising future.

While watching, I quickly saw why it wasn't as popular as it could have been, but all in all it was a fun watch. It might not have been Mos Def's best movie, but you have to give him credit on his fast-talking, quickly-annoying (to Bruce Willis' character, Jack Mosley not to the audience) acting that surprised me, since I thought, great another movie with some rapper, Soul Plane 2 here we come! But Mos Def proved me wrong. Now let's get to the actual movie.

'16 Blocks' is a crime thriller action spectacle, taking place in the time span of 118 minutes even though the movie is only 105 minutes! How'd they do that? I asked myself, but of course I got no reply.

Jack Mosley, a cop who has been around the block a few times too many and is an alcoholic, is put on an assignment he doesn't want to do, just as he's about to punch out for the day. His task is to transport Eddie Bunker (Mos Def) from the police station to the courthouse. But there's a twist, some of the high ranking police officers don't want Jack to go all the way through with his assignment, since Eddie will be testifying against those same corrupt cops.

The movie was shot with a lot of close ups, shot through foreground props and a lot of hand-held scenes. The filmmakers used these techniques to make a closed-in environment with no way out, which is what the protagonists must have felt.

I thought, being a filmmaker myself, that it would be most interesting if the movie was shot with the Cinéma vérité style of filmmaking.

The translation of Cinéma vérité is French for, film truth or cinema of truth. One approach to using this style of film making is to record an event with no extra takes and most commonly, but not always, one shot continuslY. The reason why I thought Cinéma vérité would be an interesting style choice for 16 Blocks is that Jack Mosley has 118 minutes (an average length for a feature movie) to bring Eddie to the court house. But, the movie was only 105 minutes, robbing us of 13 minutes. Not only would using this style stay true to how long Jack has to bring in Eddie, it could make the movies more appealing, and maybe do a little better for its popularity.

It's good to see Bruce Willis do a little something different, getting away from those action movies, but I would have to say I was a bit skeptical about that mustache he has for the movie, but I guess it worked out.

I enjoyed how the filmmakers strayed away from the lead character being the hot new cop on patrol and instead used a decrepted old man who can barley walk. It brought me back to the old days of filmmaking, where the main actor would actually be about two years younger than the actor playing his mother. Back in the old days of filmmaking (after talkies were still a novelity) the main characters were usualy an older man or woman not one of those crazy win or die teenagers. So many times in this modern world we see the hot new actor playing the lead role just because he's 'good looking' not because he's a good actor.

So to put the icing on the cake, I would have to say that I enjoyed this movie for having a simple yet interesting story line and to have a decrepted old man (who should be retired and sitting on his lawn chair in his driveway watching everybody drive by too fast) to be the lead character. And of course Mos Def 'cause he was mos definately good.

The missing head caper

: Head
From page 1

not found or brought back," he said.

Craig Paiement, a professor in the sports administration program, said he initially saw humor in the theft – but only initially.

"Honestly, I thought it was kind of funny," he said with a chuckle. "My second thought was that we need a little respect for our mascot. It seems like someone was trying to grab a trophy for their dorm room."

Mascots sometimes aren't that popular with the crowd. Often they are seen as annoying, distracting or just plain stupid.

But according to Ted Shipley, coach of the men's basketball team, mascots are valuable as long as they don't take anything away from the game and cause trouble.

"There are good mascots that do an appropriate job of adding some enthusiasm and energy," Shipley explained, "and then there are poor mascots that take away from the game by inappropriate behavior."

But count Angis among those who sincerely hope it is returned.

"It's important for morale," she said with a thoughtful look upon her face. "It's a symbol that has a lot of meaning to students."

PHOTO BY JEREMIAH BEHNKEN

Kristina Boucher in headless costume.

Stone said he hopes that the knowledge of the missing head will "prompt students to help identify where it is" and get it returned.

Psychology graduate program could resume

By Terry Badman and Shoichiro Watanabe
Spartan Staff

Traditionally students from across the United States and other corners of the globe have traveled far and wide to attend Castleton's prestigious forensic psychology graduate program.

In recent times, however, students have arrived at Castleton only to find the program on hiatus — perhaps permanently.

"My frustration level is at a 9, with 10 being super frustrated," said one CSC psychology student from California, who wished to remain anonymous to avoid ruffling the feathers of her professors.

"Now I'll probably have to go to another school for forensic psychology," she said.

Such seems to be the case for many Castleton students who chose to attend the school because of the forensic psychology graduate program, which was widely regarded as one of the finest, and most expensive, programs in the nation.

"We had a few students go on to do the whole CSI thing, which is real sexy these days," said Psychology Chairperson John Klein with a smirk.

The program was not only a national success in the United States, but also drew international students from different areas of the world as well.

"Our program has been as strong as it gets," Klein said adding that Castleton cannot be as comprehensive as John Jay, but can offer small class sizes and comprehensive advising.

Klein also pointed out that the sudden and abrupt departures of some of the psychology department's key faculty members led to the suspension of the program.

One professor left on temporary medical leave, while another pursued teaching options elsewhere.

It won't be until new faculty is hired that the program can officially get back on its feet.

The loss of the faculty members also caused certain undergraduate psychology courses to be suspended for the semester, with little warning given to the department or the students registered to attend those courses.

"The school should have seen this coming," said Bridget McKnight, who came to Vermont from Colorado in hopes of landing a spot in the program. "There was no warning to students whatsoever."

Associate Academic Dean Honoree Fleming said that the decision to suspend the graduate program was not something the college planned on doing, but rather something that happened unexpectedly.

"Many things were beyond our control," said Associate Academic Dean Honoree Fleming. "There just wasn't any time to react."

Students currently enrolled in the program will be allowed to finish their studies and receive degrees, but as of now no new students are being admitted into the program.

Professor Terry Bergen of the psychology department stated that there is already a plan underway to reinstate the program as soon as possible.

"We have been authorized to hire two new faculty members," Bergen said. "[We] expect authorization to hire a third next year."

"When these new people are in place, we anticipate again proposing a graduate program," Bergen said.

Although no current time table is set in stone, the department feels that the program may be reinstated by 2008 or 2009.

But for the time being, students will just have to wait patiently and hope for the best.

"We want students to be realistic," said Fleming. "If you are a senior, it might be best to look at other schools."

"If you're a freshman, well, you'll just have to wait and see what happens," she said.

Debating the ecstacy impact

: Ecstasy
From page 1

still isn't good for you.

"It's not ok," said Choma, adding that she has seen ecstasy use on campus but that most students "steer clear of it because it messes you up!"

"It's a chemical you don't want to use. Don't go there."

A problem with E

One probably doesn't get the nickname E-Lord unless completely worthy, which is why this young man stands on an ecstasy pedestal. Popping 15 ecstasy tablets on a daily basis is not uncommon for E-Lord. This lifestyle doesn't come cheap however, which is why he deals to help support his habit.

"I've spent over $3,000 in one year on ecstasy," he said chuckling, "and I love it."

E-Lord said he quickly made friends with many others excited about the drug. He supplied them with ecstasy and told them the findings of the Peter Jennings report to calm their nerves and ease their mind. The information did just that as they popped ecstasy tabs with no regrets of the physical repercussions.

Tanya is one of many extremely satisfied ecstasy customers and good friends with E-Lord. Her fervor for the club drug began when she was merely 16-years-old.

"My first time doing ecstasy I stayed in my room alone for 15 hours and rolled hard," she said.

That first experiment with the drug left a lasting impression. Tanya sat on her bed with a magazine sprawled across her legs. She began reading an article for what felt like 10 minutes -- only it hadn't been ten minutes, but two hours. She clenches the invisible clock, bringing it too close to her face and squints her eyes while explaining the strange moment. Still in disbelief of the time that had elapsed, she paced through the house to check every clock.

"That's how I knew I loved it, because it was the craziest thing that's ever happened," said Tanya.

After watching the Peter Jennings report, Liz said she felt at ease with the drug, but still felt troubled for other reasons. Ecstasy became a guilty pleasure for Liz, whose boyfriend finally voiced his extreme dislike for the drug.

"It makes me feel dirty now, because my boyfriend hates when I do it," said Liz.

But she still admits to loving the adventure of it all.

She recalls her first time, rolling with about six people, dancing to techno music, waving glow sticks around, and melting into the plush living room carpet.

"Everyone just let ecstasy do what ecstasy does, and it was the best roll ever," recalls Liz.

The fallout

Jeremy Norton is no stranger to drug use and ecstasy experimentation. He now works at Sullivan Academy in Clairmont N.H. to help others who struggle with drug abuse. He mainly works with people who have been to jail and are sentenced to drug counseling as part of their probation.

The spiritual healing is a big part of the remedial process Jeremy Norton explains. Many drug abusers deal with depression, they stop eating, their body is run down, and they often pull away from family.

When asked his opinion of the Peter Jennings report, he strongly voiced his skeptical attitude towards the media.

"The media doesn't really talk about drugs in an intelligent way," said Norton.

And while maybe it doesn't cause holes in the brain, Norton said it's hardly harmless. He explains the extreme dehydration, altering of spinal chord fluid, and the chance you take of the ecstasy tab being tampered with.

Norton said although he deals with far more cases involving crack and heroin, he said he also dealt with a female prostitute who was selling herself to support her ecstasy habit.

"No matter what it's gonna bruise you, if you know what I mean?" said Norton.

Kitty Canfield is a certified drug counselor by the state of Vermont. She is currently working at Evergreen Substance Abuse Center in Rutland Vermont, and just recently started a program in Castleton's Wellness Center. It is in her nature to want to help people dealing with addiction.

"I think everyone that comes to counseling needs to know the disease of addiction," explains Canfield.

Canfield also stresses the importance of knowing ecstasy's physical repercussions.

"It does affect the brain," said Canfield.

She talked about how it decreases serotonin and increases body temperature among users. Canfield said she doesn't believe everything the media articulates to the public but, "sometimes it gets people to call us and ask more questions," said Canfield.

Canfield receives calls from parents, schools, family and friends of loved ones wanting more information about alcohol and drug addiction. She educates them on the warming signs, but tells them that the individuals need to call themselves to seek treatment and counseling.

Recovery doesn't come easy, explains Canfield, and it's a very big step for someone to agree to counseling.

"There's a very low rate of success on the first visit. I think it's about a 20% success rate," said Canfield.

If not covered by insurance, drug and alcohol counseling can be extremely pricey. It can cost about $100 per session. Thankfully there are cheaper alternatives to drug and alcohol recovery.

Wit's End is a support group for family members dealing with adolescents and young adults using drugs. It's confidential with no registration and no fees.

Wit's End was formed by Patrick and Kathy Martin, when a heroin overdose took the life of their 19-year-old daughter. Wit's End support group meets every Tuesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Grace Congregational Church on West Street in Rutland.

So maybe ecstasy doesn't create holes in your brain but it's still highly addictive and dangerous. Whenever E-Lord doesn't take ecstasy, he said he breaks out in hives, turning his arm to the side to reveal recent scars. E-Lord admits to having an addiction, but he said loves it too much to send it packing just yet.

Seven hours after the roll, Stacy Tanya, Liz and E-Lord go their separate ways to relax and let the drug wear off. The less vibrant glow sticks still clutter the living room, as the ecstacy leaves their body.

Class' service learning cleaning up

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

After three Saturdays of sifting through garbage, they were done – at least with the nasty part.

Students in William Kuehn's introduction to sociology class have been involved in a service learning component that included picking up trash on Helen W. Buckner Memorial Preserve at Bald Mountain hoping to quell the littering.

"Hopefully we set an example so when people drive on the road and see there isn't trash, maybe they won't litter," student Andy Eames said of the work.

Kuehn started this project three years ago with three goals in mind after Castleton started pushing for more service learning programs in classes. His goals were to get a hands-on project so students can practice what they learn. For example, they learn to apply research methods and inventory by tracing the trash back to who dumped it, and to help clean up the environment.

"I hope it makes them aware of what they throw out," Kuehn said of the practice of making them study littering of those who frequent the area.

Kuehn picked the Buckner Preserve for the clean-up project because he has been working on cleaning this area for at least ten years.

"It's a really nice spot," student Joshua Furman said. "It deserves to be clean."

PHOTO BY WILLIAM KUEHN

Callie O'Bryan keeps track of trash Jenna Reed finds.

After examining the trash, students tried to analyze who was illegally dumping their trash.

Jocelyn Kirby, who was at first skeptical about getting up early and picking up trash on a Saturday morning, said her group ran into "a whole bunch of kids stuff" including Disney movies. She said her group has a few guesses about where it came from: Parents whose children were grown up; children who had to clean their rooms or maybe families who were too poor to pay the fee at the dump

The class broke up the preserve into three parts: along the river, in the fields and woods, and along Lake Champlain. They discovered that each of these sections had different types of trash. They will present their findings to the community on Dec. 6.

Along the river they found a lot of food wrappers and coffee cups, which they attributed to fishermen.

The woods were the main places for people who dumped old furniture and appliances.

Near the lake, beer cans and bottles were found in abundance, an indication of late night parties and bonfires.

Scattered within the litter, students found receipts, bills, and envelopes. These provided dates and times to help them better identify the culprits.

Names were also found in the strewn mess.

Students turned these names over to Robert Sterling, the game warden of the property, who then collected fines from the litterbugs.

"Not as many as need to be written, just a few," Sterling said when asked how many tickets he's been able to write with the help of the sociology class. "Garbage keeps coming, but these folks get in and clean. Fishermen take notice and try to help clean."

The Buckner Preserve area sees so much illegal dumping in part because it is so desolate and "easy to get in and out," said Sterling.

After three years of working on this project, Kuehn said the area looks much cleaner and every year they have picked up less and less trash.

This year they even had time to go clean up an old homestead whose family was long gone but was still surrounded by heaps of trash.

"The problem of littering and dumping can't be solved overnight," said Paul Vidovich, the land steward at the Nature Conservatory.

But he praised Kuehn's class and said their findings have been valuable.

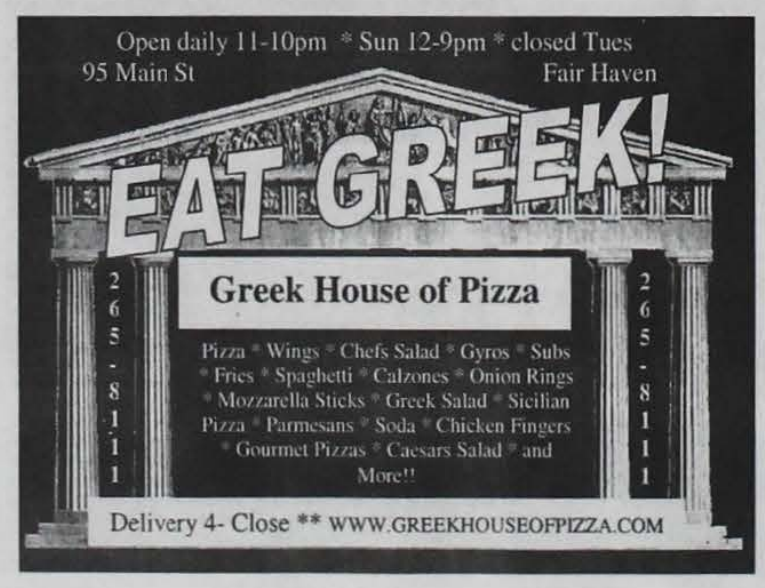
"That's been interesting."

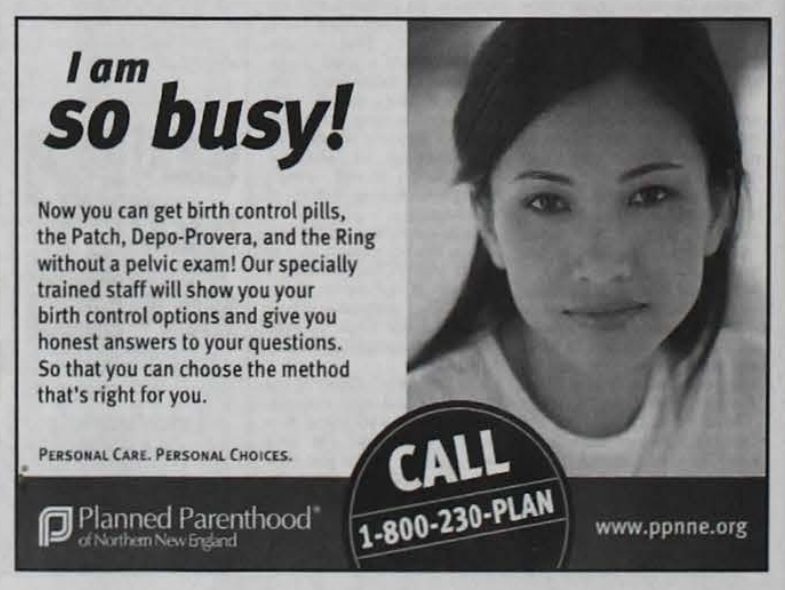
Kuehn said he has also noticed that the land is being put to "more positive use" in recent years. The two hiking trails appear to be utilized more often while the area is used less for parties.

Also other classes at Castleton and some at Green Mountain have begun to use the area for biology and geology classes.

The progress of cleanliness has Kuehn doubting whether he will continue this project next year, but student Eames quickly pointed out there are plenty of other places that could use some cleaning up.

Looking at the help received from the sociology class, Sterling said, "If they didn't do it, I don't know who would."





Q- What do you think you teachers really think of you?

Philip J. Puleo
"That if I'm five minutes late for class it's a good day."

Ryan Bouck
"How does he do it?"

Kasey 'Peanut' Harris
"I wonder what that girl's voice sounds like."

Eric Pagliaro
"Is this kid serious?"

Leanne Wren
"I would hope that they would think I am friendly and hard working."

Nice To Meet You Naomi

By Jazmin Averbuck
Spartan Staff

Name:
Naomi Julius

Birthday:
June 9, 1976

Hometown:
"West Haven, VT"

Current Job Title:
"Housekeeping"

How long have you been working at CSC:
"About a month"

What other jobs have you had in the past:
"Daycare provider, photographer, factory worker, and custodian."

Favorite color:
"royal blue"

Favorite season:
"Fall"

Why:
"You know that the holidays aren't too far away."

Favorite videogame from your childhood:
"PacMan"

Do you prefer Pledge or Endust:
"Pledge: Lemon"

What is your favorite part of your job:
"Interacting with the students."

What is the worst mess you have had to deal with:
"Poop around the rim of the toilet seat."

Finish this sentence: I would easily quit my job if____?
"Catastrophe after catastrophe happened week after week."

Have you had any encounters with the paranormal of Ellis:
"No. Why? What do you guys do?"

PHOTO BY JAZMIN AVERBUCK
Naomi Julius

Author: Iraq war fought for oil

: Photojournalists
From page 1

tration's own State Department. She said the statistics found that 65 percent of the people living in Bagdad said they would feel safer if U.S. military left.

"And 70 percent would feel safer and they would prefer for the U.S. military to leave - within a year," she said, quoting the State Department statistics.

She also stated that, of U.S. soldiers on the ground in Iraq, 75 percent said they too think that they should be gone in a year. This was made public in February.

The war is being fought for oil - exactly the opposite of what President Bush made us believe, she said as student's heads nodded.

"I have quotes in my book from several U.S. soldiers on the ground in Iraq and mothers of soldiers who have died who say, the once they got on the ground, they were immediately assigned to protect oil wells and oil infrastructure," she said. "Who said, 'There is no way I should be here to protect oil and oil infrastructure.'"

Rostam Pourzal, a native of Iran and president of the U.S. branch of the campaign against sanctions and military intervention in Iran, spoke to students about the United States' push for oil in his country and the current effort to thwart its nuclear program.

Pourzal said there is a big argument now between U.S. and European allies versus Iran about nuclear reactors and nuclear fuel tanks, which Iran bought from American companies.

They argue that Iran has lots of natural gas and oil reserves to create energy, so they don't see any reason for them to need nuclear energy, he said.

But he stressed that in recent years Iran's population tripled and Iran has developed its industry and electricity network tremendously. So they need more energy, Pourzal said.

But the Washington Post says, "you have all the oil and gas to burn; you must have some other motives, which means that you are dangerous," he said.

He said he finds it strange for U.S. to argue about nuclear power with Iran, since it is the only country in the world that has upwards of 2,000 nuclear warheads -- even now after the cold war.

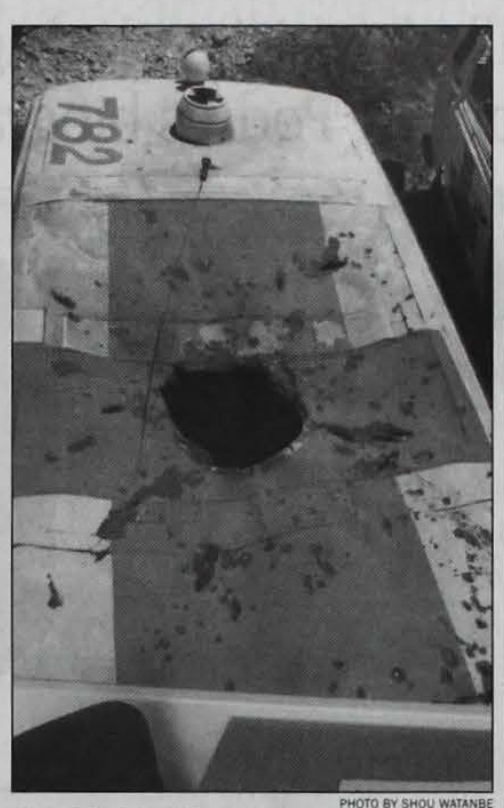


PHOTO BY SHOU WATANBE
A picture of a bombed out Red-Cross van in Lebanon..

"And it's the only country that has dropped the nuclear bomb on civilian targets in the world," he said. "It is strange for them to say nuclear power is bad for Iran, especially in the face of the fact that the U.S. tolerates nuclear outlaws to like India, Pakistan, and Israel and in fact work with them.

"So basically the U.S. is saying, if you are in my plan, you can do a lot of nasty things, and you are not a threat. But if you are independent country and want to follow your own path, you are dangerous."

Pourzal said he isn't arguing that Iran does not have a nuclear weapon program or may militarize its nuclear program.

The truth is, he doesn't know. But he said being surrounded by nuclear powers and with U.S. ships and submarines off the coast, leaders of Iran should feel "nervous."

Communication Professor Sanjukta Ghosh, who helped organize the event, said she was disappointed that not many students came to listen to the speakers. She wanted to see the Huden Dining Hall atrium packed saying students need to hear the message that these people brought.

"We are them, we should know about their country and learn, because we are them and they are us," Ghosh said.

Senior Kurt Hunt, who is in the Army reserves and could end up in Iraq after graduation, said he learned from the event.

"You don't see Bush telling us why we should be there, but these people are here to tell us why we shouldn't be there in details," he said." It is great to hear real life experts in a one-on-one information session."

Alumni profile

Sally and Michael Collins

Sally Roggmann Collins (1960) and Michael Collins (1961) recently retired after 40 years of teaching, counseling and school administration.

During those years, Sally served children as a teacher and counselor and is continuing to serve as a volunteer mediator.

Sally spent periods of five years helping to develop a village school near Kathmandu, Nepal - a life-affirming event for her.

Mike had the honor to serve as a member of a team that developed the nation's first public boarding school, The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, N.C. That school's model stimulated other states to engage in similar efforts to strengthen science, mathematics and technology instruction in out nation's schools.

Sally and Mike now live in Traverse City, Mich. during summer months and Hendersonville, N.C. through the remainder of the year.

Married in 1960, they are the parents of two daughters and have four grandchildren, all of whom reside in North Carolina.

Sally and Mike enjoy travel, having spent extended periods in Mexico, Nepal and other parts of the world.

In recent years they have hiked areas surrounding Mount Everest as well as the Camino de Santiago of northern Spain and look forward to continuing such activity now that retirement provides more time.

We met at Castleton when it was known as Castleton Teacher's College. At that time, the college enrolled approximately 400 students. We were both first generation college students as seemed to be the situation for most.

We understand that many current Castleton students are the first among their families to enter college, a remaining and commendable hallmark.

During our era, Castleton provided the financial, social and emotional support we required. We continue to value the interest shown all students by the instructors and administrator of that time.

Our teachers including Paul Sweitzer, Winthrop Tilley, May Segal, Chandler Mosher and Jim Gilbert are among those whose daily presence in the classroom, as well as the dining room, reinforced the ideal of a "living and learning" environment.

In what other colleges would a mathematics professor chase down a national defense education act, as did Charles Wright for us and many other financially pressed students?

Of course, we also relied on Dean Florence Black for direct advice and admonishment as required!

The interest shown by these and others at Castleton had served us as a guide and our own interactions with generations of students. We are pleased and proud to learn of the progress CSC has made, programmatically and financially.

This profile statement could not end without encouraging our fellow alums to continue providing financial resources to Castleton. The state of Vermont appears to provide a small but critical portion of the budget required for annual operations. At many colleges, financial support apart from tuition comes from gifts of all sorts, most significantly annual giving. If each alumnus would provide a small percent of his or her estate to the Castleton endowment, imagine the cumulative effect such an effort would create over a single decade!

Castleton State College is a special place and we are thankful to have it in our lives. We wish all current students benefit similar to those derived from our years there.

Beam me up Herald: CSC grad now reporter

Captain's log - Star date Nov. 8 - Capt. Gordon Dritschilo is transported back to Castleton State College to reminisce on what might have been.

Unfortunately his dream of interstellar star travel on the Enterprise fell short, so he resorted to his back-up plan - working as a beat reporter for the Rutland Herald.

The 31-year-old Proctor, Vt. native visited Professor David Blow's newsgathering and writing class to explain the life of a beat reporter, his love of beer-making, cooking, his management of The Cairn (now The Spartan) - and Star Trek.

"It's the best job," he said waving his hands emphatically. "All day long I get to talk to people and write about it - and they pay me!"

Dritschilo, after minimal sleep from covering the election the night before, told students how he kicked off his journalism career by getting the keys to the school newspaper office thrown at him.

Before long, he was being told by his journalism professor that the Rutland Herald was looking for a part-time reporter with "half a clue."

As a commuter, his life then became chaotic.

All of the sudden, he was a full-time commuter student, part-time reporter, high school debate coach and was selling skis at Killington for 20 hours a week. He said he essentially lived out of his car and ate a lot of McDonalds.

Asked by students about his major accomplishments, Dritschilo said he won the 2002 Vermont Press Association's Rookie Reporter of the Year award. But, he stressed that awards are not his motivating factor.

"I'm a lot more proud of the stories I wrote for that award, rather than the award itself," he said.

Dritschilo said he felt his best story was one about a kid from Wells who shot and killed his mother with a shotgun and came into Rutland and shot another person in the back. He also talked about reporting stories about two soldiers from his tiny hometown who were killed in Iraq.

He said his personal connection with the town enabled him to get people to open up about the deaths.

Dritschilo also talked about life at Castleton, saying the college taught him the basics of reporting and writing stories, but he said "you learn more on the job than in journalism classes."

He also said he wishes he took more classes unrelated to journalism, like criminal justice and education, to better understand crime- and school-related stories.

Although Dritschilo said he loves his job, the pay is low and the hours are unpredictable.

"Things catch fire at the most inconvenient times," he said. "And if you have a date with your girlfriend, some idiot from New York WILL get lost on Killington."

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT
Jeremy Bigelow takes notes as Herald reporter Gordon Dritschilo speaks in the newsgathering and writing class.

Even with low pay and random hours, Dritschilo said he enjoys where he's at.

"There are worse things than not making a lot of money," he said. "I wouldn't mind writing for a larger paper, living in a larger town, but I could be happy staying at the Herald."

This story was written by Professor David Blow's newsgathering and writing class.

The madness begins for the Spartans

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sprts Editor

Despite losing their leading scorer from last season, the Castleton men's basketball team will bring back the majority of last year's roster in hopes of contending for the conference title.

With scrimmages and exhibition games already under their belt, the Spartans are ready to open the regular season this week.

Castleton head coach Ted Shipley returns for his sixth season at the helm, and expects a lot from his team -- both on and off the court.

"Obviously we want to win basketball games, but it is also important for each player to be excellent students and good citizens in the community," he said. "A very strong work ethic and team approach are vital toward the outcome of games and how we present ourselves to the community."

The Spartans return four starters from last year's 13-13 squad, including junior guard Rich Reilly and senior big-man Jeremy Jorgensen.

Reilly, a point guard from Manassas, Va., averaged 18.2 points per game last season and led the team in assists. Jorgensen, a 6-4 forward from Fairlee, enters his final year after leading the team in rebounds with 9.9 per game and averaging over 15 points.

Coach Shipley has stressed the need for his players to fill in the leadership role, which he believes will be occupied by Jorgensen and Reilly.

"Player leadership is everything in the direction of our team," Shipley said. "Both guys have good leadership qualities and are very competitive."

The other two returning starters from last season are senior forward Matt Tomaino and junior guard Alden Gregory, both known for playing tough on the defensive end.

To add some size to this year's roster, the Spartans bring in 6'9 center Zach Briggs from Randolph. According to coach Shipley, Briggs will give the team valuable minutes off the bench and will have an immediate impact in the frontcourt.

It is uncertain whether or not the Spartans will get production from the newcomers, but the sixth-year head coach sees this as a good thing.

"There is not a lot of pressure on the new players to produce right away," he said. "They will be able to learn the offense and defense this season, and any early season production is an added bonus for our team."

Castleton opens its season Friday against Clarkson in the first round of the Potsdam State Invitational. The host school, Potsdam State University, and rival Green Mountain College round out the teams participating in the two-day tournament.

Rich Reilly

Former "Yankee Killer" revisits playing career
CSC alum writes Johnny Podres biography

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY THE POST STAR

Queensbury resident Johnny Podres talks about one of many awards at his home recently.

His friendly smile and firm handshake greet those at the Chronicle book fair in Glens Falls. He eagerly tells stories from his years in Brooklyn and has discussions with the locals about who he grew up with or the cars he drove.

More than 50 years have passed since his pitching performances defeated the New York Yankees in games three and seven of the 1955 World Series, but Johnny Podres still reminisces about his playing days, whether he is talking with a friend or signing autographs for fans.

Podres, 74, was a major league pitcher for 15 seasons and spent the majority of his career in the Dodgers organization. The crafty southpaw, born in Witherbee, N.Y., was a member of four Dodger championship teams and pitched alongside Hall of Famers Don Drysdale and Sandy Koufax.

"It was an honor just to pitch on a staff that featured two of the most dominant starters in baseball history," he said.

Podres made his big-league debut in 1953 with the Brooklyn Dodgers and lost to the rival Yankees in the World Series that year. His shining moment would occur two years later on the grandest stage of all.

The Yankees' Kryptonite

Trailing the series 2-0 to their in-state rivals, Podres got the start for Brooklyn in game three and pitched a complete game to beat the Yankees 8-3.

"After the game, Jackie Robinson told me 'That's the most important game you're ever going to pitch,'" he recalled. "I guess Jackie didn't realize this series was going seven."

The Dodgers proceeded to win the next two games, but the Yankees took the sixth game and set the stage for a pivotal game seven.

In what would define his career, Podres shut down the Yankee sluggers for nine innings and won Brooklyn their first World Series with a 2-0 victory. After years of losing to the men in pinstripes, Brooklyn finally got over the hump and gave the city a reason to celebrate.

"They always used to say 'wait til next year' about the Dodgers," he said. "If I didn't save their butts, the Yankees would have won another series."

He received the honor of World Series MVP for his clutch performance and was recognized as "Sportsman of the Year" by Sports Illustrated.

Before the 1958 regular season, the Dodgers moved from Brooklyn to Los Angeles. The team's relocation to the west coast was tough for Podres, but he was able to adjust to the new situation.

"What was I going to do? I was part of the Dodger organization," he said. "They were paying my salary, so I went to L.A. with the rest of my teammates."

Podres would have another chance to face the Yankees in the 63' World Series, and continued his dominance with a 4-1 win in the second game. The Dodger pitchers allowed only four runs that whole series, leading the team to a four-game sweep.

An Author's Big Break

While attending Castleton State College in the early 60's, Bob Bennett had been a lifelong Dodger fan and was interested in becoming a sports reporter.

As a student at CSC, Bennett had the opportunity to meet his favorite Dodger and 40 years later, he decided to write a biography about Podres.

"Nobody ever wrote a book about his life," he said. "My sons and I tracked down Johnny's former teammates and did a lot of research for the biography. The toughest part was actually getting Johnny to give us the okay. I even brought him Vermont maple syrup one day to try to persuade him."

Podres allowed the Bennetts to interview him in 2004 and helped the authors with the book's direction.

"Johnny and his wife gave us some scrapbooks, which were very helpful," Bennett said.

The biography, 'Johnny Podres: Brooklyn's Only Yankee Killer,' was published last year and explored the playing career of the big-game pitcher.

For last year's 50th anniversary of the Dodgers' first World Series win, Podres and Bennett went to Brooklyn and spent the day talking with fans of the old Dodgers.

"They were happy with me for bringing Johnny back to Brooklyn," Bennett recalled. "We were both treated like royalty and had a lot of fun."

Life After Baseball

Podres retired from baseball in 1969 after playing one season with the San Diego Padres. In fifteen seasons as a pitcher, he was a three-time All Star and collected 24 shutouts in 440 games.

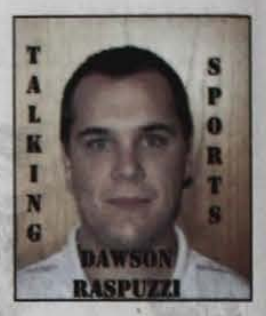
Podres came back to the sport as a pitching coach for 20 years and worked for the Padres, Red Sox, Twins, Dodgers and Phillies.

In 1990, he was named the Phillies' pitching coach and became a mentor to Curt Schilling.

"I'm good friends with Schilling. Our families have dinner together from time to time," he said. "I taught the kid everything he knows."

The former World Series MVP now resides in Glens Falls and keeps in touch with some of his Dodger teammates. "[Don] Zimmer's a good friend of mine; we go to the track and watch the horse races," he said. "I'm still friendly with [Duke] Snider and [Clem] Labine."

Podres does not watch many baseball games, but roots for the Phillies whenever they are on television. When asked why they are his favorite team, Podres said "because the Phillies paid me the most money."



As Veteran's Day weekend came to an end, I found myself reading some letters from disappointed readers about my last column in which I said that I didn't mind if professional athletes take steroids.

I read these letters over and over, questioning if I really was insane for my views and if I really do know as much as I think I do about sports.

As I pondered my credibility, I came to a line from one extra-aggravated fellow saying that I'm a disgrace because these steroid users are heroes to little kids everywhere. At this point I had to stop and ponder just what the word hero means.

Being in an extra patriotic mood from reading articles about veterans from past wars, and from watching Saving Private Ryan just a few days ago, I tried putting Barry Bonds' sweet swing in the same category as a man who has died defending his country during a time of war.

Bonds, along with every other athlete I thought of, came up just short.

I then thought about firemen, policemen, doctors, and icons like Martin Luther King Jr., who have influenced people and changed the world for the better.

I again thought of Barry Bonds, this time trotting around the bases with kids cheering.

Gandhi standing up for the civil rights of others, Mother Teresa helping poverty struck families, and Barry Bonds sliding into second just around the tag. One of these doesn't seem to fit with the others.

These days, the word hero gets thrown around more than the pigskin before Thanksgiving dinner -- and it's absurd. I've never heard of a touchdown catch saving a city from being raided, or a buzzer-beater cleaning the streets of drugs and violence. I love sports as much as anybody, but I can't say that the way they perform on the field is heroic.

Don't get me wrong, professional athletes are most definitely role models to many. If it's their duty to be one or not is a different argument. But people who get paid more money for each game they play than I will ever earn in a year are definitely not heroes just because they are great at what they do.

This isn't to say that an athlete can't be a hero, because there are many heroes amongst them. Jackie Robinson, and many other black athletes from the same time who broke the color barrier in professional sports can be considered heroes.

Other athletes use their money and fame to better others, like the way Curt Schilling donates hundreds of thousands of dollars to different charities each year. Schilling is not a hero because he helped both the Diamondbacks and the Red Sox win World Series, or because he has won over 200 games in his career. He's a hero to many because he has helped others just because he can and he enjoys doing it.

Athletes doing what they get paid to do are fun to love and to root for, and are even those to emulate for a child dreaming of making it to the pros, but they aren't saving lives.

Young women's hockey team off to 1-2 start

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sprts Editor

The Lady Spartans opened up the hockey season away from home against two of the top teams in their conference.

While last season's 7-18 record barely got them into the ECAC East tournament, the women's team is trying to improve and climb toward the conference's upper tier.

Led by first-year head coach Craig Paiement, Castleton has brought in 10 freshmen to an already young group of players.

Saint Anselm College, picked to win the conference in the preseason poll, hosted the new-look Spartan squad with 500 fans in attendance.

Castleton was ranked ninth in the ECAC East poll, but once the puck dropped, the rankings meant virtually nothing.

Castleton had trouble controlling the puck and finished the first period without a shot on goal. Saint Anselm scored four goals in the first period off junior goaltender Vanessa Carter, who was very busy throughout the season opener.

The opposition continued to pour on the goals and dominated Castleton en route to a 9-0 win. Carter stopped an impressive 63 of the 72 shots on goal, but the Spartans were able to get only eight shot attempts the whole game.

The next challenge for the Lady Spartans was against New England College. In the first period, Castleton came up short on opportunities and gave up a goal with less than two minutes left in the period.

New England scored early in the second period, and the Spartans trailed by two after the second intermission.

The women would end up suffering another tough loss to start the season, defeated by New England 5-0.

On Saturday, the Lady Spartans played its home opener against M.I.T. at the Rutland Regional Fieldhouse.

After a scoreless first period, the visitors opened up the second period with a quick goal. Castleton answered back in the second when freshman Maryanne Diehm scored off fellow freshman Brianna Behmke's assist.

Sophomore Katelyn Greene gave the Spartans a 2-1 lead after her first goal of the season. Down by one in the third period, M.I.T. tied things up with a goal from Mary Harding.

With the game held in the balance, Vanessa Carter made ten saves during the final period and gave her team a chance to win.

Freshman forward Adrianna Riggio scored the game-winning goal off an Ashley Whitehouse assist with less than two minutes left.

The Lady Spartans held on to win 3-2, giving the team its first victory of the young season. Castleton hits the road this weekend in a rematch against M.I.T. on Friday and a tough Holy Cross squad on Saturday.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JEFF WELD

Vanessa Carter makes a save last year when she won ECAC Conference goalie of the year.

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THE SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2006

Meredith Fletcher: The woman behind the smile

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY KENNETH TYLER
Meredith Fletcher

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

First impressions are always key when meeting the parents.

Meredith Fletcher's impact on Diana's mother involved being introduced after slamming Diana's hand in the car door. But despite the thumping pain and agony running through her hand, the two remained together.

Meredith Fletcher is the 29-year-old, blonde haired staff assistant to Castleton State College's Associate Academic Deans. For five and half years, her home at Castleton has been her simple desk in the basement of Woodruff Hall.

"I think we're very lucky to have her. I was told and quickly discovered that," said Associate Academic Dean Renny Harrigan.

With family photos looking down upon her at her desk, Meredith's tasks throughout the day involve setting up meetings between students and the deans, making copies and answering the phones, and taking care of the writing standards.

"I think she is very helpful. If she doesn't know something, she'll send you in the right direction," said Amber Porter, a senior. "She's really nice and good at giving information."

Always soft spoken, Meredith said she hopes that her bosses would say she's easy-going, does her work efficiently, and has a smile most days.

"She's always pleasant and friendly. She has a good sense of humor and that's important," said Harrigan, confirming Meredith's hopes. "You know that when you ask Meredith to do something, she'll get it done. You can depend on her. She has a high work ethic."

Meredith does, however, admit that she is too laid back when it comes to asking co-workers for help.

"I won't pursue it if they say they're too busy," she said, but added, "I think the people is what makes it so much fun."

Small Town Girl

Originally from Long Island, Meredith and her four siblings grew up in a very religious home.

"We went to church and did things I wouldn't necessarily agree with. It was cult like in my opinion," she said.

But after moving to Poultney at age eight, her parents began to relax. They even no longer minded celebrating Halloween, previously not allowed because it was the "devil's holiday."

While attending Castleton as a student, Meredith did a bit of acting. She also liked to sing -- and still does.

"In the shower, in the car ..." said Diana Fletcher, Meredith's partner.

In 1999, Meredith graduated with a bachelor's degree in Mass Media and Communications.

"When I graduated I spent a lot of time looking in my field. But, I'm a small town type of girl," she said referring to the premise that cities are the place to be for communication graduates.

Coming Out

In 1997, Meredith was still living in the "quiet, sleepy, little speck on earth" with her parents. Despite being afraid of being kicked out of the house, she broke the news to her family.

"My mother was crying. 'She's like Ellen' she cried," Meredith said.

Since coming out, she said that she has had no negative experiences. Only one of her uncles doesn't recognize Diana as her wife or acknowledge her.

"My grandmother surprised me the most," Meredith said. "She was like 'Psh. Who cares? Whatever.' I've been really lucky."

Although her family now knew, her classmates still officially did not. During college, Meredith was part of the club One-in-Ten, which at that time was not really open to allies.

"At the award ceremony senior year, it was announced I was part of the club. So, I was a little bit outed," she said.

Today, the couple's relation-

Please see **Meridith,** *PAGE 6*

Back on the stage

By Janet Perron
Spartan Staff

Chad Voghell, technical director at Castleton State College's Casella Theatre, returned to work Friday after four days in the hospital and three and a half weeks recovering at home from an accident on the stage of the theater.

Voghell was injured early last month after asking alumni Sarah Allen to help him for a day of focusing numerous lights for the Castleton performance of Man of La Mancha. Voghell's wife, Jennifer, was running the light board and watched as the lift holding Allen began to fall over.

"When it tipped over I was shocked, my first reaction was to try and stop it, I put up my hands and when I realized it wasn't stopping I turned to run," Voghell said.

The lift clipped Voghell on the shoulder pushing him to the floor, resulting in two broken ribs and a bruised right lung.

"I was extremely lucky. Had I been on the ground when the lift hit me or had it hit six inches in either direction on my back, there's a really good chance I wouldn't be writing this to you now," Voghell said in an e-mail.

Stagecraft One class members pulled the lift off Voghell and he rolled out. Allen was not hurt and Voghell said she did exactly what she was supposed to do, which is tuck into the basket as it fell.

"Broken ribs are painful, it was three weeks before I could drive again, almost a week before I could even stand on my own power," said Voghell. "It will be a couple of months before I'll be able to do much physical labor in regards to my position here at Castleton. I will need my crew more than ever."

Voghell's assistant, Jessica Ryan-Leblanc, took over for Voghell for the month he was gone while still attending a full load of classes.

"I am happy to be back and can't wait to get back into the swing of things," Voghell said.

While he was out of work, he said numerous other students stepped up to help out in the department to be sure events ran smoothly. Craig Mowery, who has been professionally working in technical theater since graduating in 2002 from Castleton, was hired to help with the Soundings event showing of Koresh Dance Company.

"I received a lot of support from my colleagues at Castleton. Cards, gifts, phone calls were in abundance and I never felt more like a part of a family," Voghell said.

Learning homelessness by living it

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Three students huddled around the grill trying to warm themselves up as the raindrops sizzled on the dying embers.

Kadie Dellacamera, Mike Lefebvre, and Heather Slater were among several students who set up cardboard boxes on Thursday evening only to have their makeshift shelters cave in under the early Friday morning rain.

"Hunger is such a minor discomfort compared to this," said Dellacamera, a Green Mountain student who helped set up a 30-hour famish at her school.

Students were participating in Castleton's Box City, hosted by the Social Issues Club and Community Service Club to raise awareness of the magnitude of homelessness in Vermont.

"Always, you have people who form opinions and don't have the facts," said Stephanie Johnson, a Social Issues Club member. "The misconception is that people choose to be homeless, choose to be hungry."

About 20 students, including six from Green Mountain, slept outside of the Coffee Cottage Thursday night in an attempt to replicate a homeless setting. Two students from Green Mountain, Ashley Case and Joshua Olson , walked along the rail trail for two-and-a-half hours from Poultney to Castleton to reach the box city and further the impact.

"It's a cool way to spread the message," Olson said.

"In the cold and rain," Case added.

"It's kind of hard not to notice," Olson replied.

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT
Mitch Wenz sits in the cardboard box he spent the night in to raise awareness for homelessness.

For warmth, they were allowed a sleeping bag and a fire set up next to the tarp-covered box city.

"If this were like a real thing, they'd give us a forty in a brown paper bag, newspapers, and tell us to stay outside," Lefebvre said.

Although agreeing that the stimulation was unlike the real experience, Johnson hoped that people began to realize "that it could happen to anyone."

After setting up the boxes, students headed to Castleton Hall where they were served soup and bread - like meals served in a soup kitchen.

Students listened to local resident Nikki Stone talk about her

Please see **Box City,** *PAGE 6*

FAC EVENTS

Castleton Wind Ensemble
Thursday, December 7
8 p.m.

Castleton Collegiate Chorale
Sunday, December 10
3 p.m.

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COMING NEXT ISSUE

Evaluation process

We'll see you next semester!

A drink on me

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

I bought my underage brother a bottle of booze the other day.

Southern Comfort, actually.

It was his 18th birthday. By man law, and I'm unsure of which one specifically, I am required to welcome my brother into the world of adults with a nice hangover, some Texas Hold'em scratch tickets, and a "manly" pack of Swisher Sweets.

Swisher freakin' Sweets - ah, to be 18 again.

It is my civic duty, as a brother and a dude, to supply my younger sibling with the tools necessary to truly enjoy his passage into adulthood. To deny him such tools, or rights for that matter, not only makes me a lousy brother, but it makes me a contemptible, self-righteous, dingus.

Or for lack of a better word - a prick.

Who am I to say he can't have a little shot or smoke on his 18th birthday?

Personally, I'm not a huge fan of the entire smoking thing. The smell of a freshly-lit cigarette isn't what kills me - it's that stale and stagnant stench that clings to clothes like Robert Downey Jr. clings to methadone clinics.

I'd spend an eternity waist-deep in an ocean of rotting pig entrails before I'd spend ten minutes in a car with someone who reeks like an ashtray.

But hey, if my brother wants to smoke on his 18th birthday, than who am I to say he can't? He is officially a legal adult, after all.

But what about booze? Yes, I am of age. And yes, I purchased a bottle of fine southern bourbon for my "underage" brother. I am guilty of a crime. I'll admit it. I mean why not? Find me one person of authority who wouldn't have done the same thing in my situation.

I'm sure you've already heard the numerous pro-drinking arguments: "I can go to war but I can't have a beer," or "teenagers only abuse it because they can't have it," or my personal favorite, "everyone else on the planet can drink at 18, but I can't."

Then again, I can see the other side of the spectrum, too. There are a LOT of people who aren't ready to handle alcohol at all. You know the type - the "I need a thirty-rack of rancid Icehouse just to get my buzz going" types. These idiots ruined drinking for everyone. Not because they can drink more than anyone else, but because THEY CAN'T HANDLE THEIR BOOZE.

Yeah, I said it.

All you types who sit back and brag about how many times you've been arrested, or how many porches you've pissed on while hammered, are just covering up for the fact that you can't hold your liquor. Stop kidding yourselves, and stop making every other young adult look like some sort of drunken, poo-flinging, neanderthal.

You're part of the reason we all have to wait until 21 to drink - thanks a bunch.

That being said, there are still plenty of those "of-age" folks who abuse the booze just as much as any college kid, so age and stupidity can't be exclusively joined at the hip, I suppose. It's a hard line to walk, as there's no real right or wrong cure-all answer for this debate.

As for me and my brother, well, I don't feel what I did was a crime. I supplied him with the booze rather than some random "hook-up guy" who would have charged him twice what it was worth. I'm also sure my brother isn't going to mix the sauce with his breakfast Cheerios and drive to school, either.

He can handle it. He's 18 - he's an adult. It's time to treat him like an adult. And to be an adult means to accept responsibility for your own self and actions- no matter how dense and dumb-minded they might be.

I bought my underage brother a bottle of booze - I'll probably do it again. Is that really such a horrible crime? If it is, well. . .

I'll take a cell next to Manson, if you don't mind.

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A little personal fear and loathing

By Bradford Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

There were a myriad of reasons I'd given up on the whole journalism thing. The main reason was the workload. Journalists work incredibly hard for very little pay; very often writing about things they either don't care about or shouldn't belong in a newspaper in the first place. They work for editors who put such things in the paper and decide to call it news.

Besides, being a journalist is incredibly uncool. You can count the list of relevant journalists who manage to be iconoclastic on one hand. Maybe one finger.

It seems trite and maybe even a little redundant to bring up Hunter S. Thompson in a column. I've mentioned him before, a few times. My esteemed colleague Terry Badman also seems a bit smitten. But who can blame us?

The more I find myself becoming physically uncomfortable at the thought of becoming any sort of journalist, the more I look to Thompson for inspiration. He forged his own way, made up his own rules, wrote about what he wanted to write about, and lived the way he wanted to live.

He wrote journalism like it should be written: with commitment to his subjects, a lust for what he was writing about, and not a damn care about what people thought of him. And that's really what I respected him for most. He was Hunter S. Thompson to everyone and if someone didn't like it, he was Hunter S. Thompson to the nth degree when they came around.

I stopped working for the paper for a few months because I'd given up on it. I'd convinced myself that being a journalist was a waste of time and I'd never amount to anything because there was nothing to amount to. I don't like stories about meetings, murders, bus accidents, tsunamis. I especially don't like stories that worm their way into the lives of families who have suffered from such things. It's sensational and I don't like playing on people's fears.

And I hate stories about celebrities.

And I'd given up because whenever I opened a paper or turned on the news these things were there. A 10-minute segment of news was given to Anna Nicole-Smith's eviction last night. Not on Fox, either, but on CNN Headline News. I could never work for someone who made the decision that Anna Nicole deserved 10 minutes of news. Headline news, at that.

The more I think about it, though, the more I realize I don't have to. Thompson didn't. The things I hate, take up a lot of news time, but they aren't all that's there. There are dozen's of publications out there that don't deal with stories like that and I just need to search them out.

Reading through this, I realize that I owe you an apology. This was written not for you, the readers, but for me. So I do apologize. But it will be the last time. From here on out, I write what I want and hope that you like it. And I needed this. A public reaffirming of why I love to write and why I need to. So that people like me have things to read that don't involve crime statistics, disasters and Brangelina.

I'm rededicating myself to my love of writing, in whatever form that takes, be it journalism or, further down the road, something else.

I'll never write like my hero wrote. I'm fairly certain I don't have it in me. Maybe I don't need to. He had heroes, I'm sure, and he wrote like only he could. And all I can do is try for the same.

Letters to the Editor

Shut up. Don't talk

We've all seen the police dramas on TV where the officer's eyes narrow as he comes face to face with the suspect that he's been hunting for the last 45 minutes.

After the suspect starts to shoot, the officer draws his weapon and fires two shots hitting the suspect square in the chest, taking him down for good. Backup then arrives and the officer is patted on the back for what is clearly a good shoot.

At the end of the hour, everyone goes home content, stable, and still employed.

This unfortunately, is not the way things really happen. In a lecture hosted by the Criminal Justice Club on Nov. 30, attorneys Michael McAndrews and Michael Lefebvre spoke to Castleton students and criminal justice professionals from the Vermont State Police, Fair Haven Police Department, the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation about what officers can expect after their use of force.

Before becoming attorneys and advocates for police officer rights in critical incidents, both men served as police officers. McAndrews spent over 20 years with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, retiring with the rank of lieutenant after serving as the commanding officer for the recruit training academy as well as becoming a recognized expert in law enforcement liability and tactics in critical police incidents.

Lefebvre served 10 years as a police officer in Hartford, Conn. and had an essential role in creating and implementing an officer safety committee within his department. In addition, he served as the vice president of his local police union.

The attorneys told the story of Robert A. Murtha, an officer with the Hartford Police Department who shot at an individual who was charging him with a car. While the driver lived, the officer's career did not. Unfortunately for Murtha, his recollection of the night's events (as described in his statement to investigators) didn't quite line up with what had been recorded by the video camera in the police cruiser.

McAndrews stressed that after being involved in a shooting, officers feel the need to talk about what they went through and believe so strongly that they remember exactly how things happened that they give statements to show their cooperation. Murtha hadn't tried to lie about what had taken place. Instead, his brain couldn't put all of the pieces together, so while he thought he had been struck by the car he had actually jumped away at the last second, falling and injuring himself.

The investigation that followed used the initial statement Murtha had made as evidence against him and his credibility.

This is where Lefebvre's key strategies for officers come into play. He argues that officers need to have a plan of what they will do if they find themselves in this situation, much like the insurance policies that we have on our cars, homes, and even our lives.

First, he said, officers need to be prepared before they find themselves in these situations. They need to know their rights, know the policies of their department, and if necessary, advocate for reform of those policies so they are current and reasonable.

Next, he said officers should never underestimate the seriousness of the situation, as not only can they lose their jobs, but civil and criminal charges can be filed with the potential for substantial prison sentences.

The biggest part of this plan however, is to shut up, and don't talk. This is not because the officer is guilty of anything, but because in order to effectively recollect what happened, the brain needs time to rest and process the information.

Both McAndrews and Lefebvre stress that while officers are receiving better and better training on conducting tactically sound shootings, they're left hanging when those incidents actually take place.

While police officers and lawyers are often at odd's with each other, these attorneys argue that for the sake of officers' careers and their freedom, they should "shut up, and don't talk."

Perri McPhee

Man of La Mancha: "The Best Show Ever"

Looking back, there always looms a best show. A time when the planets (minus Pluto) spin into proper alignment. No weak link, a show that glistens like a gem -- sharp, defined, reflecting light. No weak sister songs, no rickety bridge to shuffle the story along. Strong and able, a show that rushes from one high point to another.

Just such a show occurred from Nov. 8-12 at Castleton's Casella Theatre with a reprise on the 15th at the goldenly ornate Paramount Theatre in Rutland, our area's version of a Broadway house. The show, of course, was Dale Wasserman's "Man of La Mancha" (with music by Mitch Leigh and lyrics by Joe Darion), spearheaded by three talented directors: Harry McEnerny (drama), Jonathan Lorentz (orchestra), and Suzanne Kantorski (voice).

And what a cast! Kevin Ginter, who has studied opera for a year and a half and journeyed to New York for master classes with one of the Irish Tenors, and can hit that note in "The Impossible Dream," took on the demands of Don Quixote, adeptly alternating bombast and tenderness to deliver the moral message of "follow your quest."

Lauren Martin, in one of her finest roles, as well as her final appearance here at Castleton (New York, here she comes!), shined as Dulcinea and just got better with every performance, piling on subtle shadings to an already full-throated performance.

Julian DeFelice glided all over the stage as the playful sidekick, Sancho, at one time fleeing a scolding with the moves of a cartoon character -- his redhead steady, his legs a pinwheel of haze.

Michael Stevens, the sweet-singing Padre ("nice, really nice"), who served as the confessional conduit between Brette Tucker's housekeeper and Jessica Ryan-LeBlanc's niece, in a pleasingly complex tenor-soprano-alto trio with an underpinning vamp by pianist Elizabeth Blodgett.

Shawn Dayton, the cape-flipping Captain of the Inquisition, who pointed out the next prisoner to the guards, Adam Desautels and Andrew Gannon, who lumbered down the steps to assist the unfortunates (most poignantly the delirious Michelle Page) to their fiery fate. Matthew Howk, the broad shouldered, virile, and vengeful head Muleteer and a true master of falls, slugs, and slaps; David Gabaree the deep-voiced Governor/Innkeeper who kept order among his fellow prisoners (in a set designed by Randy Ingram; costumes by Brittany Vaughn and Eva Zimmerman) when not bestowing the order of knighthood on a grateful Quixote.

The mounting frustration of Tirzha Osmun-Palmer as Maria, the innkeeper's wife, who eventually succumbed to an ear-splitting scream. The good cop/bad cop of Matthew Donnelly's performance as the Duke and Dr. Sanson Carrasco. The breaking of the fourth wall by the barber, Samuel Ducharme, who mouthed "That's my hat" to the audience.

To top it off the ensemble just sparkled. There was so much going on that an audience member could isolate a character and follow his or her arc through the course of the evening. If a horse and donkey could be more charmingly played than by Heather Barnes and Heather Denardo, or a ragtag bunch of scallions better done than by the muleteers (Phil Barber, Matthew Hession, Ken Holmes, Andrew McDuff, Jonathan White), or a band of gypsides more fetchingly danced than by Joanna Cardillo, Summers Eaton, Courtney LaFalamme, Else McLaughlin, Kate Pierce, Michelle Ross, and Victoria Vondle, then bring it on. It was a group that surely proved the adage: there are no small parts, only small actors.

A college show rarely soars any higher. This writer attended the original production in New York in 1968 with Richard Kiley and Joan Diener, as well as the Broadway revival in 2003, and the Castleton show ranks right up there.

As Mariko Hancock, who has witnessed scads of musicals during her 14 years at the helm of the college's cultural life, stated: "It was the best show ever."

Burnham Holmes

Have something to say?

Contact *The Spartan* at thespartan@castleton.edu, or call Ext. 6067.

Soldier's widow stresses need for compassion

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

Katie Garvey and her friend Abby Robuck visit David Blow's news media ethics class.

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

It was hours after she found out that her husband had died in Iraq and the media was assembled outside her house already jockeying for a quote or a picture.

Katie Garvey and her then-roommate, Abby Robuck, sat in the first two chairs when entering Room 65 in Leavenworth where David Blow's News Media Ethics class met. They recounted the disgust and invasion of privacy they felt when dealing with the media, hoping to spur the would-be journalists to use compassion when dealing with similar situations.

"Be respectful and compassionate," Garvey said throughout her talk. "If you go to them in a tactful manner, I bet they'll be willing to work with you."

In nearby Proctor, a town with less than 2,000 residents, Justin Garvey's 2003 death, one of the first in the Iraq war, shook the town and the entire state hard. Upon his death, the media rushed to the Garvey's house in Kentucky, where Katie and Robuck were living at the time.

They described the behavior of the media as "ruthless."

Three of Justin's friends had to go hold off the media horde at the end of the driveway.

"They were ruthless, no respect at all," Robuck said.

The next day, Garvey was contacted by Rutland Herald reporter Gordon Dritschilo, also from Proctor, who a week earlier had told Blow's newsgathering and writing class that his story about Garvey was one of his best.

"I'm a lot more proud of the stories I wrote for that award, rather than the award itself," Dritschilo said to Blow's class, saying the Garvey story was one of several submitted that led to his award.

While Garvey said that the story he wrote was "not bad," she was less than pleased with the way Dritschilo treated her.

"He was just a jerk," Garvey said, adding that the encounter "left her with a bad taste in her mouth."

Dritschilo declined to comment for this story.

Garvey said Dritschilo contacted her on the phone stating that he had a deadline he couldn't miss. She told him she was willing to do a sit-down interview a few days later once she flew to Vermont, but Dritschilo used her comments that night for his article the next day, although she was unaware that he was taking notes during this call.

After that incident, no one got a sit-down interview with Garvey.

Eventually, Garvey said she wrote a statement that her father then gave to the media "so they'd leave me alone."

Since then, she has decided not to grant any media requests, though she's had plenty of opportunities to do so.

"Anyone who knows him (Justin) knows him, if not they don't need to," Garvey said of her outlook at that time.

Garvey said she was disgusted also how the media was willing to get a quote from anyone - like the neighbors two doors down whom she waved to once in a while, but had never talked to.

Although Garvey was scarred by the media treatment, her mother-in-law sat down with a reporter and had a positive experience.

And recently, she agreed to be interviewed by students from Norwich who were profiling different soldiers from around Vermont. Again she was happy with the outcome.

But Justin's father took a gamble with the media, and it too turned sour. Garvey said an author writing a book about soldiers included Justin's story, but Justin was referred to as "Jason" and his birthday was wrong.

Katie was not impressed.

To conclude the class, Garvey stressed the importance of not "[getting] in their face the day it happens."

In order to get a true picture of the deceased from the family, the duo emphasized that reporters need to wait a couple of days and give the family time to heal a little.

"You can't put a time limit on when you're ready to talk about it," Robuck stated. "Put yourself in her shoes or any of her family's shoes."

Bergedick filling big shoes

By Steven Hartmann and Matt Sargent
Spartan Staff

Is it possible for a one-year replacement to fill Castleton icon Bob Gershon's shoes?

Jody Bergedick, assistant professor of communications, said she doesn't even try.

"Bob's not replaceable," Jody said, "I'm just me."

Bergedick speaks very highly of the Castleton students she has been working with for half a semester. She said she never expected the students to be as talented and committed as they are, but added that they are also unfortunately big procrastinators.

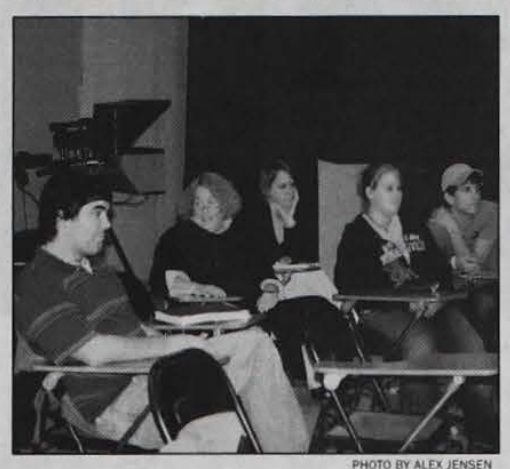

PHOTO BY ALEX JENSEN

Jody Bergedick sits with students in a video production class.

She spoke of the Video 2 kids' lack of motivation when it came to passing in the news stories. She would check the e-mail half an hour before class, and the box would be empty, and suddenly before class, it was filled. She wishes students would motivate themselves to hand in the homework earlier.

But she said even when they are lacking motivation, they seem to always pull through with great work.

And students in her classes seem to have warmed up to her assuming Gershon's position.

"She's really nice, (but) gives out too many compliments and not enough criticism," student Dave Frederick said while unicycling around the WIUV radio station lounge. "I mean, she's pretty confident in our abilities. She pretty much lets me and Adrian (Hill) take over."

Mat Tutlhill spoke highly of Bergedick saying "I think she's great. Like she tells us what to do and then sits back and lets us learn it on our own. She's easy to talk to and easy to go up to and ask for help. She's not afraid to joke around and makes her classes enjoyable to be around."

Although praised for her abilities to teach and foster creativity, some students feel that Gershon had the certain criticism qualities unique to him.

"She's a little more free flow," Hill said. "I wish there was more criticism, Bob's personal criticism. Bob got more people in a nervous state," he said reminiscing about the little notes Gershon would leave on his student's papers.

Real world plans

Often with a new professor, comes new ideas and opportunities for students. Bergedick, despite less than a semester under her belt, is planning a new service learning course for next semester. The class will have a limited student capacity, but for students who plan to work in the filming industry, the class could prove invaluable.

Bergedick explained how the class would be run as a business and that she would act as the manager.

She gave an example of what the class may offer as far as real-world experiences. Say the Poultney Historical Society wants to do a small ad promoting the area and they come to an agency like the one the class will be acting as. They sit down and describe that they want their ad to start with a beautiful sweeping helicopter shot of the area, but then they explain that they only have $5 to spend.

Students in her service learning class will have to learn how to deal with clients like this. She said this happens more than you would think, and that it's their job to come up with other methods that would make great work, but at a cheaper cost. The object is to keep the client happy.

"One thing about the real world is how to deal with clients, people, cast, crew and production," she said. "We are going to run it like a company."

Not all rosey

When asked about any improvements that could be done to the communication department or the TV studio, Bergedick said there is a lack of money in the department to make improvements. Hill and Frederick nodded in agreement.

"They got an old-ass Mac for the teleprompter that keeps crashing when you bring up the Internet on it, and they [the school] took away the video-mag e-mail. It's really ridiculous. Jodi had to set up a hotmail account for the video-mag feeds she gets," Hill said with a chuckle. "The school needs to spend some money on the communication department, we have an under funded comm. department."

Bergedick also elaborated about the TV studios needs.

"The equipment is older than me," she said, calling the studio rather "sketchy."

Money is a problem in most departments and Bergedick said she understands that, but the need for more equipment is great. She also said that it's almost more important to get more equipment rather than new equipment.

"It's more about content, the shots, how you edit. But there are not enough cameras. We could use more, not better," she said.

When Gershon returns in August Bergedick plans to go back to work for Peg T.V. in Middlebury. She said she enjoys the work and wants to get back. She has been working two days a week as the youth coordinator for the company and said she enjoys exposing young children to the media and developing a little media literacy among Vermont's youths.

Jody Bergedick

Bergedick is enjoying her time here at Castleton, and is clearly trying to make an impression.

VSAC: Vermont Students' Assistance Corporation.

Assistance? Yeah right.

For the last couple weeks my life has been hell. Financial aid hell. Not something a student loves to deal with.

I couldn't think of anything else. All I did was worry. I didn't want to have fun, or go to classes, or do my school work. I shut down my life. Funny how money can screw up ones hopes and dreams.

I almost couldn't come back next semester. I had a million problems with my loans. The ones I applied for kept falling through. I called VSAC and they told me everything was fine one minute, and the next minute I couldn't get the loan. I know they must be extremely busy, but all I wanted to do was yell and scream at them for their lack of organization.

I have to stay in college. I need to stay in college. If I don't, who knows what will happen between the end of this semester and when it comes time to apply for the next year of college. I could get stuck in a rut. I'm not lazy, but usually if I have a routine I stick to it.

I get so used to it that nothing else seems like it would work out. I worked at Dunkin Donuts for two years and hated many aspects of the job, but stayed there because I knew how to do the job.

How fair is it that those who really want to stay, run into every obstacle? I know trials build character, but seriously! I listen to so many students who don't want to come back next semester. That or they are slacking from their classes because they would rather party.

Stop complaining!

Some people actually want to be here and are struggling to do so. I'm not against hard work, but one could be so lucky to be able to attend school and not worry about the money issues. At some point, every student has to deal with loans, grants and scholarships.

Certain people just get the raw end of the deal because of one mistake someone else made.

These tough times put a lot of my future into perspective. I have always wanted to go to college. I never realized how upset I would be if I couldn't. College was an impossible dream that I made possible for me. I spent a lot of time and a lot of effort working towards this goal. When you work hard for something it is always more rewarding in the end.

I promised I wouldn't be negative anymore. Sorry I lied. All of this sounds pretty depressing. You ponder life and its meaning and every introspective idea you can think of. You feel like your problems will never work out no matter how hard you try. Friends tried to cheer me up, but nothing worked. I was about to give up to be quite honest.

Then someone came from out of the blue, and gave me a suggestion. I applied for a new loan that wasn't through VSAC. The situation is clearing up. A lot of good friends, family and CSC staff members helped me out with this. I'm lucky to receive such help.

Pretty soon it will all be worked out and I can apply for classes. I might not get all the ones I wanted originally, but I'm not going to whine about that fact. As long as I get classes I'll be fine.

Don't let the system get you down. Eventually life turns around, that is if you truly put your heart and soul into everything you do.

That's a real life experience.

Dispatch from a world away:
"I'll be home for Christmas"

By Ariel Delaney
Spartan Staff

Summer, as well as the holidays, are surely here in Peru. Students are antsy waiting for that last exam to be over. There are advertisements of the Coca-Cola Santa all over and people decorate their palm trees with tea lights.

When my host mom asked me to come with her to help with the tree, I didn't know she meant to the attic. In the process she informed me that I had it all backwards. Turkey is Christmas not Thanksgiving. That explained the pizza. Summer vacation is three months until March. On Christmas they stay up all night long in addition to New Years' Eve. Fruitcake is what they call Paneton. It's a cake with dried fruit baked into it. And the holidays usually mean vacation as summer corresponds.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ARIEL DELANEY

Ariel Delaney

I got started a little early I guess. Last weekend I went to the highlands. I went up 3,500 meters to Huaraz to see the Cordillera Blanca, which is the beginning of the Andes. I looked at the tallest mountain in Peru, Huascaran, which at 6,768 meters is the highest peak in the tropics anywhere in the world.

The air reminded me of Vermont. It was like a very cold fall day. This was quite a change for the Lima girl. The bus trip was so fast I got zoroche - altitude sickness. But the beautiful ride was worth it. We went along the coast through the desert and up. My head felt like it was going to explode and for a 5'1 shorty, I felt tall.

Once there in the night I had an episode of lack of air, but as the night passed and a local gave me mate de coca (tea) I slowly acclimated. Coca is not a drug as the t-shirts say here. The indigenes have used it for years here and it works.

The next day I went to all the accompanying towns in the Ancash region. Spanish there was much different than in the capital, as it is a second language to quechua.

The most interesting town was Yungay - a town completely destroyed by an earthquake in 1960. It caused an avalanche that buried the town. An hour drive and 4,000 meters from there we got to the Laguna Llanganuco, which has blue water and spectacular views of glaciers. The return to Huaraz brought out the chill of the night so I drank moliente, a mix of herbs with lime juice. It tasted like tea. Unfortunately I didn't have an herbiest with me on the return to Lima.

I got home in time for exam week to tell all my classmates I had explored the highlands.

The awe quickly faded as my classmates informed me that Cusco and Machu Pichu, my next trip, is at 5,000 meters. I better find more coca. I see less people on campus as exams are history and my time here is as well.

My family is more concerned with the long bus trip, as accidents and robberies are frequent. After Cusco I am going up north to Tumbes, to the beach area, then plan on crossing the border to Ecuador before I return home. Hopefully along the way I will have everything in place. Peru has been amazing and I plan to return soon, but as I swore to Mom and my advisor at C.S.C. - I'll be home for Christmas.

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?

Huden trades in hamburgers for beer

By Jacqueline Borelli
Spartan Staff

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JOSEPH ZEITLER

Students enjoy music at Huden's first pub night.

You enter Huden Dining Hall and make your way to a room filled with students, music, snacks -- and yes even beer.

On Nov. 16, The Third Place and The Speak Easy held an event that turned the dining hall into a pub, attracting a huge crowd with a huge love for music and friends.

Joe Zeitler, a junior, helped organize this event that he said took a lot of time and effort.

"Everyone that has talked about the event has had only good things to say," Zeitler said, although he added that students did complain about beer prices - which he said he had no control over.

Beer and wine prices ranged from $3.00-$4.00. Students waited though, waited for their drinks in an orderly fashion. Aramark even sold out some of the beer.

Aramark is the company that controls the college's food and beverage services. Zeitler said the students who organize the event do not profit at all.

After grabbing a drink students mingled their way to the front of the room and jammed out to music, forgetting about the day's stress.

While listening to the music, students pushed through chairs and tables to get close to the action. The more bashful students stayed in the back watching others dance, laugh, and sing. The room was a bit of a tight squeeze, but it didn't seem to bother people.

Madison Quinn, a junior, went to The Third Place for the music and to spend time with her friends.

Quinn, who isn't 21, said she enjoyed hanging out with her older friends that normally go to the bar. She would defenantly attend another show if it were offered.

"What I saw I really enjoyed," said Quinn, who did say she felt a little crowded at times and felt the tables were unnecessary. The chairs would work just as well she said.

Zeitler said he hopes students appreciate how much time and effort went into this project. Future projects are going to require additional student involvement, he said.

"The event was to promote responsible drinking as well as Safe Ride," said Zeitler. Also he said to promote "the third place."

In society, he explained, we have our home, work, and another place to socialize with our peers. The Third Place and Speak Easy are composed to draw students together.

Dean Stone, who attended the event, felt the students handled the event very well for the most part.

"Twiddle was the band I enjoyed the most," Stone said.

The event, Stone said, attracted certain groups of students who all handled themselves respectfully and still had fun.

Stone said the event did have alcohol, but he didn't want that to be the main focus. If there is a drink limit students will drink to the limit and then leave. He hopes students come for more than that.

Stone's only problem is he doesn't want alcohol to be the number one factor. (He said he hopes students are better that that and he said he'd welcome other events like it.)

On the night of the event, people would jump outside to cool off, and then head right back in and never miss a beat.

Zeitler said other events are possible, as long as people are willing to help. He also added the events could get bigger.

"Spread the word, if you had a good time let people know that weren't there," said Zeitler.

If you would like to be involved with The Third Place you can contact Joe Zeitler at Joseph.Zeitler@castleton.edu

"Sesame Street", Skip-It, Nintendo, and a nine-planet Solar System. Those are what I grew-up with.

What is happening to society that these childhood ideals have been altered or completely demoted as acceptable to our culture? It is absurd to expect a child to understand Spanish courtesy of Dora the Explorer or to hear of a Cookie Monster who eats vegetables.

As a child, I saw Cookie Monster as a furry whatever-he-is who ate lots and lots of chocolate chip cookies -- and I didn't know a second language until freshman year of high school. And I think I turned out pretty good. So why are we changing things now when they have worked for so many years?

First off, why does Sesame Street have to change?

Oscar the grouch isn't supposed to be mean, and he isn't allowed to live in a garbage can because it condones negativity and filthiness. And as if that isn't bad enough, Cookie Monster now eats vegetables and an occasional oatmeal raisin cookie.

I understand that society is very aware of child obesity, but to think that Cookie Monster has anything to do with it is absurd. What will he sing now? V is for veggie?

It makes me sad that the health nuts have brainwashed the once genius creators of Sesame Street. But that's not all.

This planet-not-planet thing is confusing the heck out of me too.

How can you have just eight planets? It seems unnatural.

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and no Pluto. It isn't just a pain to retrain yourself to not say the ninth non-planet when reciting the planets in the solar system, not now we have to circulate all new text books through schools and universities.

This task will take a lot of money, dead trees, and time. It would've taken less energy to just keep Pluto as the ninth planet.

These are just some of the nuisances that have developed for the next generation. We had it easy. I am saddened to see kids these days go through their adolescence with a nice Oscar, a healthy Cookie Monster, and a Solar System lacking its ninth planet.

Crocheting for extra cash

PHOTO BY LEANNE WREN

Fil Samaha dons his winter headgear courtesy of Leanne Wren.

By Jacqueline Borelli
Spartan Staff

Not far from campus you will see the most colorful window display. And not only does it look good, it's wearable too.

Because money is tight during college, one Castleton State College student is making a little extra cash selling her handiwork.

Leanne Wren, a senior at Castleton, crochets hats for anyone willing to buy. Her business, called Kongk Hats, that started about three years ago, is really taking off, she said.

Wren said she saw a girl selling the Kongk Hats once and thought it was a great idea. She contacted her grandma, learned the skill, and the rest is history.

"As long as people want hats I'll keeps doing it," said Wren.

Wren's hats are durable throughout the harsh winter season. A lot of students wear them to go snowboarding on the mountain. Wren told a story about a friend rocking out so hard in his hat the pompom flew right off.

"I had to make a whole new way for the pom pom, I made it now so it will never fall off," said Wren.

Carleigh Warfield, a junior at Castleton, is customer of Wren's. Her hat is maroon, turquoise, and finished off with a pompom.

Warfield uses her hat to snowboard, but said it works well for her, in all chilly conditions.

"Its funny how fast and how hot a product it is," said Warfield, gleaming about the hats and how inspirational it is.

Bailey Emilo, owner of a black and neon hat with a pink trim, says the hat keeps her head warm. She even wore it trick-or-treating this year.

"I knew it'd be a high quality hat at low cost," said Emilo.

Lots of people compliment Emilo on her hat, which she said she designed herself.

Wren said every hat is customizable. No two hats are the same. She has over fifty different colors of yarn - making the possibilities endless.

Chris Lawson, a senior, talked about his white, brown, and baby blue hat, topped off with a pompom. He said he's extremely satisfied with his hat and that they make a great gift item - even for your mom or dad.

"I use it for casual use and snowboarding," said Lawson.

Kongk hats and scarf's range from $15.00-$25.00. Wren also said she is looking into designing shirts for customers too. She hopes one day this side job will become full time, with a strong team by her side.

"Just let people know, I crochet, I don't knit," said Wren.

Castleton Fashion: Does it exist?

By Jo Doolan and Jazmin Averbuck
Spartan Staff

If you look around at Castleton State College students, what do you see?

Jeans. Sweats. Band tees. You see many people who look oddly similar.

Is this the fashion statement students are trying to make - or can it even be called a fashion statement? The Spartan decided to do a little informal survey to find out what people wear - and why they wear it.

First year students are known to be the most "fashionable," probably because they are still new to the school. They bring their own styles with them from home, and are sometimes a little slow to adapt.

Gradually this will change, however. It is expected that before long, most students will adopt the Castleton style; a composite of comfortable clothing.

According to most students interviewed, the general consensus is that Castleton fashion is made up of many different styles.

"It depends on what you're into," said senior Seth Tuper.

Many might consider the school's array of fashion as a major faux pas. But, if you look closely at these costumes you will see how every person on campus makes this comfortable style into an individual style that displays their own personality.

Even professors notice what their students wear. It helps them understand a lot about their personalities and interests.

Adjunct communication professor Robert Wuagneux, who routinely dresses in wild colors with berets or doo-rags, wild scarves and funky shoes or boots, is as fashion conscious as they come.

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

Robert Wuagneux shows off his style

"There are some people who like to make statements through apparel and others who don't even think about it. I have seen some pretty dank things and some pretty beat attire while roaming the campus," he said in a recent interview. "I think it comes down to who is watching and whom do you want to notice you. Even that can be limiting. Style is something that is so personal that to judge someone by it is a sham."

There will always be trends for both males and females that you will find at Castleton.

We sport styles that make us easily recognizable as hippies, athletes and skateboarders. Then there are those students with stand-out styles that separate them from the rest and are hard to miss -- usually females.

Girls are expected to be more fashionable. Student Becky Bammert said girls stay true to their roots more often then guys do, unwavering in their clothing choices. Wuagneux aside, many students we talked to said that the guys on campus can usually be found mostly in blue jeans or sports clothing.

On the other hand, the women were seen as wearing a lot of name brands such as Abercrombie and Fitch, American Eagle and Gap. The females are also more risky with their choices, like wearing a dress over pants accessorized by dangling jewelry.

It may not be the center of fashion, but it is our own.

www.castletonspartan.com
do it now.
?

Vampires are among us

PHOTO BY KATHERINE DANELSON

Phil Armstrong, native of Albany, is acting out the character of Liam.

My name is Stasya Afanasii. I came from Russia when I was 16, and I have been a vampire since 2004.

Now, I shall live forever in the shadows of the night.

I like America, I really do. There are lots of people and it's quite easy to find work. Lots of freedom here, in America. I came to Rutland, Vt. two weeks ago to find a place to settle down for the winter.

I wanted to go some place that was just as cold and just as snowy as my home. I traveled all over the United States this past summer, and have heard wonderful things of Vermont in the winter time.

So here I am, walking into a meeting of other vampires. I have never met a single vampire other then my master, the one who made me who I am. When I arrive, I am instantly greeted by what would appear to be a hostess. She welcomes me, and then takes my weapons.

Apparently this is a place free of violence. She mentions a prince, one who sees over the entire region, and that I should introduce myself. I agree, as I know nothing of the vampiric ways of rule, but I know about the human ways of rule -- and being a newcomer in someone else's city, it would be of the utmost importance to introduce myself.

I'm looking for a place to take haven for the winter, I'm looking for work to support myself, and I'm looking for action.

I introduce myself to some of the locals, and hear lots of interesting stories of the past. This city has an enchanting history. Backstabbing, killings, political misconduct, I couldn't have found a better place for myself!

You see friends, I am an former worker of the FBI. I am an assassin. That is what I do. So even before I became a walker of night, I killed. I spent my entire summer working for different clients and killing whomever they paid me to kill. It would seem that the events of that night were not of the normal actions for vampires in this area.

A group of them came from Albany, to socialize with the newcomers, I assume. It would appear they knew a lot of the older Rutland residents. I also heard that Rutland has gone through quite a few princes in its time. And it would seem that Albany and Rutland like to compete with each other.

These vampires have connections to other vampires all over the world. I never knew there were so many of us.

That night, someone staked the prince of Rutland. And contrary to popular belief, no she did not die. Yes, I said she, for our prince here in Rutland, is a female. As is the prince of Albany as well. This surprised and delighted me.

Woman coming of power is something very unfamiliar to me, as where I am from, this rarely happens you see. So her being staked was of no surprise. For I heard rumors that it is pretty common for Albany to try to take control of Rutland.

This is politics of course. Nonetheless, she survived, and last I knew, the Vamp who staked her is blood hunted. I'll let your imagination decide on that one.

Along with other minor happenings, I even got to fight a pair of gargoyles this night. This was a complete utter waste of time. My bullets kept bouncing off their cold stone skin. I don't think that fighting them was the right course of action however.

PHOTO BY KATHERINE DANELSON

Michelle Ross

But I did as I was told. And doing as I was told got me into a grapple with one of them, and it took a great deal of time to get out of it. I'm used to fighting people, not stone animals!

I encourage all other Vamps of the Rutland area to come and join us some time. We'd all love to meet you, and every political side could use more to fight for their cause!

Katherine Danelson is involved in the role-playing club that meets regularly on campus and interacts with clubs from other areas including Albany.

A moment with Mother Earth

I wake up early around 7 or 8 am. I stretch my legs and arms as I slide out of my warm comfortable bed. I open the shades to let the beautiful hot sun poor in my room as I lace up my running shoes to start my run. I gulp the cold water down, grab my hat and start out the door, leaving my roommate in her slumber.

I walk down the sidewalk and up the street before I start running to get my legs warm for the run. The air is brisk and chilly but I'm not concerned because I know I will be warm soon.

As I reach the end of my street, I start to jog. My body start's to wonder what is happening but it will soon adjust. I hear my feet pounding on the sidewalk and the car's rushing to work as I make my way through town to my favorite place to run. The two mile warm up to Georgette Park warms my mind and body as I think about the day and not getting hit by a car as I head to the park. As I approach the park my body fills with adrenalin and excitement for the trails that come ahead.

I start on the trail I leave behind the cars, troubles, thought's and stress of everyday life as I enter my wilderness sanctuary. The park is the only peace of sanctuary I got in the metropolis of busy Rutland.

I start up the hill that goes for about two miles changing in elevation all the way up. The air is cold on my now hot sweaty skin. A cool breeze cuts through my hair and on my face as I trek up this hill. I hear all kinds of birds singing in excitement as I run through their territory. My leg's are burning, my breath is heavy and my heart is beating through my chest. I keep climbing this hill with determination. I will get to the top without stopping. It's me versus nature.

I make it to the top. I am on the road to the pond. As I run over the rocks a white tail rabbit comes out of the brush. He sees me and starts to hop swiftly up the road in front of me. Almost like he was racing me, it hops off the trail and back into the woods. I climb over another hill then reach the pond. Before I start my loop around the pond, I stop and sit on a rock next to the pond. I'm out of breath and sweating through my shirt. As I sit on the rock and look around, I gain an appreciation for mother earth that so many people today have lost or forgot. I close my eyes and listen to her speak to me. I meditate forgetting everything that hurts me. I hear her speak to me through the wind, through the tree's, through the water and through the bird's. I respect her. I appreciate her. I weep for her.

As my body cool's I realize I need to move again. I run my usual trail through the woods around the pond and back to the trail. Knowing the trail is all down hill from here, my feet and leg's start to pump fast down the trail. Again my head clears; my heart beats out of my chest and the wind cuts harder though my hair. She does not judge me. I have no worries, no one to impress, no problems, just the feel of the ground under me feet. I reach the end of the trail way faster then I went up.

I enter the parking lot and turn back to get one last glance at the beauty around me before I reach the cold city. I race along the street's that lead to my house dodging traffic, people on the sidewalk and crack's that might trip me. My emotions get heavy realizing that I have left my sanctuary and have to face reality again.

Even though I have to go face the day I still feel refreshed now that I have cleared my head and my body. Running is my life and mother earth doesn't mind me running on her. What more can I ask for.

Serena Gallagher

Sounding Off

The place for Soundings Information & Feedback

No more events this semester.
Here is a sneak preview of some spring offerings:

Jan. 18 at 4 p.m., FAC, Convocation & the Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative event
February - Groovelily - take theatre, rock, jazz, pop, & folk, blend and serve with humor
March - 'An Inconvenient Truth' -- film and discussion
April - Boston Brass--hot brass, classical to jazz

Soundings event feedback:
Man of La Mancha

Question: Which song do you think best supports the meaning of the play?

"The Impossible Dream." The whole meaning of the play, as well as the song, is to hold fast to your dreams. The rest of the world may not see your vision and even scoff at it, but dream it anyway. We need to see the beauty and greatness in the world and people and not all the ugly and bad. We can choose what we "see" in life." Christina Whitcher

India: Culture, Karma, Caste, and Cows

Question: How have your perceptions about India changed, or not changed, as a result of this presentation?

"I have always wanted to travel to India. It just seems like such an amazing and diverse country. My perception has changed because people have always deferred me from the idea. Yet even more so I would like to experience India and the complexity and diversity. There is so much within the growing technology of tradition that is still engraved within the people of India's lives. It would be amazing to experience that contrast between tradition and the modern world.
Alexandria Jensen

"My perceptions have changed completely because I always thought of India as very poor. I never realized that they were a hugely growing industrial society. I also did not realize they were a democracy. I know more about the government and economy, which is nice. It's good to broaden your horizons and learn about other countries." Caitlyn Crelin

Shafaatullah Khan

Question: Describe one way Shafaatullah Khan's music is similar to Western music and one way that it is different.

"Shafaatullah Khan represents an ethnic and cultural experience that is a unique introduction into India. A similarity between Indian and Western music is the relationship to soul, spirituality of individuality, especially when compared to jazz. A difference between the two is the attitude of the musicians. These musicians are relaxed, seated, and comfortable as if they are a part of their instruments. Western musicians are more about center stage performance, an extension of the instrument instead of a part of it." Michele LaFlam

"One way that Khan's music is uniquely different from Western music is the rhythm. He uses very rhythmic patterns with both hands, producing a sound that Western music lacks. By doing this, the listener is treated to an everchanging cascade of sounds. One way in which Khan's music is like Western music is the harmony. Like Western music, Khan's music blends multiple instruments and sounds into one intricate piece. The instruments lose their individualism as they merge, much like Western orchestras."
Luke L ivingston

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Was it a success? A flop? Please contact a Soundings instructor or Spartan advisor David Blow to share your thoughts

Entertainment Corner

The Prize Fighter Inferno

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

Coheed and Cambria fans rejoice!

The Prize Fighter Inferno (Claudio Sanchez lead singer and rhythm guitarist of Coheed and Cambria) recently released an album titled 'My Brother's Blood Machine.'

'My Brother's Blood Machine' is the prequel to the Armory Wars. The Armory Wars is the concept behind the Coheed and Cambria albums, the story of the Kilgannon family: Coheed, his wife Cambria, their four children and Coheed's brother Inferno.

Inferno dies in Coheed and Cambria's third album 'Good Apollo I'm Burning Star IV Vol. 1: Fear Through the Eyes of Madness.' In 'My Brother's Blood Machine' Inferno is resurrected on present day Earth where he tells the story of the Blood Machine.

"The Blood Machine revolves around three families, one being the Bleam family, who are our horrific sort of 'Texas Chainsaw Massacre' family, there's the McCloud family where we have our main character, Cecilia and the Early family," said Sanchez in a recent MTV News interview.

According to Sanchez, there are a number of subplots that develop. One song tells of how Cecilia's father molests her. Cecilia then kidnaps her twin brothers and they runaway into the woods where they meet the Bleam family.

The Bleam brothers, Long-Arm and Butchie, are convinced by their insane mother that they are the new death and need to collect souls for God.

"And so, out of their mind, they're like, ok, so when a body dies, how do we get the soul out of it? They construct this Blood Machine, which basically tears a body to shreds, and they think that releases the soul," said Sanchez.

Coheed and Cambria fans will be thrown for a loop when they first insert 'My Brother's Blood Machine' into their stereos.

Sanchez switches genres with this album. Coheed and Cambria is a rock band, The Prize Fighter Inferno is acoustic electronica.

The album is almost a lullaby if it wasn't for all the death and destruction. Sanchez sings in a calm, soothing feminine-like voice that can put you to sleep if you're not focusing on the genius behind his lyrics.

"To your knees, this daily passion, you don't feel anything, you couldn't raise the knife across him, but would you dare ask anyone to, take away all the blame? What if you aren't responsible? Would it ease this life a little, to see him buried instead?" is an example oh his lyrics.

The Prize Fighter Inferno certainly does not sound like a Coheed and Cambria album. It instead sounds more like an album done by the Postal Service, a poppy electronic dance party.

Some songs that people are bound to love are 'A Death In the Family,' 'The Margretville Dance,' and 'Run, Gunner Recall, Run! The Town Wants you Dead!

Leaving you 'À bout de soufflé'

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

Last week I found myself researching online for French New Wave films. The funny thing is that I can't remember why I decided to do it. Oh wait, now I remember, I was looking up cinema verite films and out of cinema verite you have French New Wave.

If you don't remember or didn't read my last review, I mentioned cinema verite, which literally means film truth.

The narrative film is shot almost like a documentary, with handheld cameras and using mostly only available lighting. French New Wave is a movement in France that embodied cinema verite. One fine example is the film Breathless (A bout de soufflé), created by Jean-Luc Godard.

Breathless is about Michel Poiccard or to some people, Laszlo Kovacs. Early in the movie, Michel is driving down the road in a stolen car and is stopped by the police. Since he stole the car, he doesn't want to get caught so he shoots the police officer. For the rest of the movie, Michel tries to persuade a girl he is in love with to hide out in Italy.

Breathless is a film for some that may be confusing, boring, and foreign. The film was shot on a shoestring budget, so don't expect any fancy camera moves, big explosions or luxurious sets. In fact, a person who would enjoy this movie the most would probably be someone who enjoys documentaries. The style of the cinematography stays true to documentary filmmaking – long hand-held shots, and real locations. The only thing that separates this movie from a documentary is the absence of interviews.

People of the modern age may enjoy Breathless since many reality TV shows, shows on MTV or other modern movies from Quentin Tarantino or Robert Rodriguez have adapted the same techniques used by Jean-Luc Godard. Some of these techniques are jump cuts (when there appears to be a sudden jolt in time when a section of film is taken out creating a jump from lets say frame 40 to frame 65), handheld cameras and improvised/lengthy conversations.

Breathless is mostly conversation, but the topics they converse on are quite interesting and jump from one topic to the next with out further notice. Many of the conversations are edited together with the jump cuts, so the topics can go from one to the other without hesitation.

At first the conversations did seem to be a bit confusing because of their sudden switching of topics, but after watching the movie two or three times, I started to appreciate it more. This is the type of movie that requires you to watch it many times for two reasons; one, because it's a really good movie and two, because you can't absorb every detail in one pass like to tie what the characters say to each other to different scenes and to find the little references, like how Michel is modeled after characters played by Humphrey Bogart.

It's no surprise that there is a Humphrey Bogart reference, since many of the new wave filmmakers saw the successful filmmakers like Alfred Hitchcock or film noir movies such as the ones with Bogart as models or examples to learn from - even though the style of new wave is very anti Hollywood.

To wrap it up, Breathless may leave you A bout de souffle (out of breath) or it may bore you completely. If you have an interest in foreign films or if you want to expand your mind in the art world, then go to your nearest video rental store or buy it

This is the type of movie that won't let you just stare at it and let it go through one ear and out the other, you have to pay attention and actually think. I know thinking may be hard for some people, but many of Jean Luc Godard's films are like this, particularly, Pierrot le fou and Alphaville. They make you think about what's going on, what the underlining themes are and what it could all mean.

"It's so unreal"

: Meredith
From page 1

ship is still questioned by many, unsure of whom the two really are.

"They think we're sisters," Diana said.(of the majority who do not know the extent of their relationship.)

Pursuit and Marriage

In 2004, a then 34-year-old, blonde-haired, Brattleboro native came to visit Meredith for the fist time. Meredith embarrassingly admits that two met on Eharmony.

"It sounds so dorky," she said. "I don't know. I think of geeky people, send me your picture type thing. It seemed so strange."

Both Meredith and Diana admit that the first date was nerve racking. For Diana, it was her first time with a woman, having previously been in an 11-year marriage.

"It was all on my shoulders to show her a good date with a woman," Meredith said of the picnic date. "The first couple of hours were awkward. I didn't know what to say and I was so nervous I didn't know what to think."

However, eventually the two began to really click.

"It was so unreal how we hit it off. I was in shock. You were a lot of fun," Diana said turning toward Meredith.

The following weekend, Diana visited again and the two began spending more and more time together. Diana continued to pursue Meredith and described herself as the pushy one.

"She had to be. I was just sitting there," Meredith said.

"It was a fun chase," Diana, a hairstylist, added.

After six months, the two, along with Diana's son from her marriage, bought Meredith's grandmother's house in Poultney. It was the biggest step Meredith had ever taken with anyone.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY FLETCHER
Meredith Fletcher and her partner Diana with Diana's son Dylan.

"Lesbians tend to bond really quickly. So, as lesbians do, we bought a house in six months," she said.

Then, it was time to take an even bigger step.

"We both had known we wanted to get civil unioned. I consider it a marriage. I always say this is my wife. Partner sounds like two little old ladies, 'this is my partner,'" Meredith said in an elderly, shaky voice.

Taking the initiative to do so, Meredith bought Diana a ring.

"I went in and said I'm looking for an engagement ring. It's for my partner," she said. "They were like shaking. I think I gave the jeweler a heart attack."

The night that Meredith proposed to Diana, she spread out rose petals, lit candles, got dressed up and left clues for Diana to follow to the ring.

"You didn't get the clues to find the ring," Meredith said to Diana.

"I was in shock about the dress," Diana replied, adding that was the one and only time she's seen her in a dress.

"I looked like a linebacker in a dress."

Although they had a difficult time finding a justice of the peace, the two held a small ceremony in their home on July 30, 2005.

Early on, Meredith had decided to take Diana's last name.

"It sounds better with our names," she said. "Diana Trudy. I don't know. That doesn't sound good."

If Laughter is healthy...

It's said that laughter is healthy. If that's true, anyone that enters the neat, simple, royal blue dining room will get a dose of healthy laughter.

"We're a little crazy," Meredith said.

Arguments are rare in the Fletcher home, but when they do occur, Meredith said they are over the dumbest things.

"One time I didn't roll up the garden hose. I thought I was in big trouble," she said, adding buying one that rolls up automatically solved that problem.

"She's very giving and patient. When she gets upset, it's the funniest thing," Diana said.

"We laugh in middle of fights," said Dillon, Diana's 11-year-old, dark-haired son, who considers himself the family comedian.

Dillon is not Meredith's adopted son and she only recently referred to him as "our son" for the first time. His father is an alcoholic and drug addict and the duo is currently working to stop his visitation rights.

"It was a little difficult at first. But for the most part, it's been surprisingly easy," Meredith said. "We provide him with double the mother."

"Dillon was one of the last one's to know. I wanted him to accept Meredith for who she is," Diana said, playing with her matching wedding ring.

"I'm always the last one to know everything," said Dillon, who is still finding out things about his mother's relationship.

Diana said that Meredith hates housework, doing the laundry and dishes, and is a little fanatic and OCD (her movies are in alphabetical order). She added that Meredith is self-proclaimed technical genius.

"We pick on her a lot. But, she doesn't pick back so it's boring," she said.

According to Dillon, both he and Meredith are competitive and her only annoying habit is that she eats fast.

"I thought she was more hip than my mom," he said of the first time meeting her. "She's younger, we listen to the same music and have the same ideas."

Diana added that she would not a change a thing.

"I've never embarrassed you yet," Meredith said to her.

"Not yet. We'll see about this Thanksgiving."

Rain soaks box city

: Box City
From page 1

homeless experience as her son Michael played with her umbrella in the background. Stone now works for the Rutland County Housing Coalition helping people who are in the position she was in four years ago.

"I wanna help and make a difference," Stone said. "If out of ten, only one gets a safe place, that negates all the other stuff."

After her talk and some discussion, students went to the campus center where they watched two videos based in Vermont - one on homelessness and one on hunger.

PHOTO BY CATALINA ALCARAZ-GUZMAN

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT
Ashley Case and Joshua Olson from Green Mountain rest on the benches outside the box city after walking from Poultney to attend.

"It's kinda depressing seeing these people living on the streets struggling being with children and having families," Olson.

When the movies ended, so did the warmth.

Students went back to the box city to spend the night and try to keep warm and more importantly, dry. With the wind blowing the tarps around, rain leaked onto the boxes, collapsing several of them.

While most students stayed throughout the night, the Green Mountain students, who did not have the leisure of the tarp, left around 4 a.m.

"I came to get an idea of what it is really like to not have a place to sleep," Green Mountain student Jen Aistion said. "It's easy to think about, but not to go through."

Perpective from inside a box:

There was the sound of a light rain on the blue tarp that over hung the cluster of cardboard boxes, which myself and other college students would call our homes for the evening.

That light rain then turned into a downpour, with the raindrops finding their way to the holes in the tarp then like a waterfall flooding out beds.

Moans, groans and the sound of chattering teeth from those wet, cold and shivering then echoed through box city. Curled up in my sleeping bag trying to stay dry and warm, I could not help but think back to the films on homelessness shown earlier, the guest speaker from the Rutland County Housing Coalition and the mock soup kitchen. The night would be restless, mainly due to the thoughts of those who must experience such things as this every day and night.

I had not eaten since breakfast and while standing in line for soup I imagined what it would be like to be eating for the first time in days. Imagining that extreme hunger I felt guilty going back for seconds when we were told there was plenty of soup left over. I mean, how many soup kitchens have enough food for the homeless to have seconds?

While I gnawed on a piece of bread, the guest speaker began her speech, talking about her own experience with homelessness as her young boy played silently on the couch. He too had experienced homelessness. She spoke of the struggles and how she now helps to make a difference for those who are experiencing what she did.

The films we watched showed faces of those in Rutland and all over the state of Vermont facing homelessness, as well as those helping at food shelves helping to make a difference. The sound of a homeless father's whimpering and tears ran through my mind, ran through my head while the box I slept in became soggier and I grew colder. He had lost his children to foster homes because he could not care for them.

Those films brought to life the statistics on the blue paper given to me at registration, they now had faces.

Four thousand people are homeless in the state of Vermont at some point each year and last year 767 Vermont children spent one or more nights in a homeless shelter.

These are only Vermont statistics. Why some people think homelessness doesn't happen here is beyond me. I knew it was here in Vermont, but the box city helped open my eyes to its prevalence. As snow begins to fall outside as I write this, I realize that the discomfort I and others experienced the night of box city was nothing compared to those on the streets during the coldest nights in Vermont. Most people complain about having to go outside to warm up their car when it's below zero.

Imagine sleeping in it.

This was the first box city at Castleton and I hope the first of many. Although the drunk that walked by in the early hours of the morning is right, yelling that "the homeless don't have tarps," I hope more students realize that through the box city they can get a taste of what it's like, and trust me, it's enough to encourage you to think about everything you are blessed with. It hurt to hear someone say, "I don't feel bad for them, they chose it."

Let me tell you, very few choose to be homeless, and by participating in box city you'll understand a part of the reason why.

Written by Janet Perron

Vandals deface SA event board

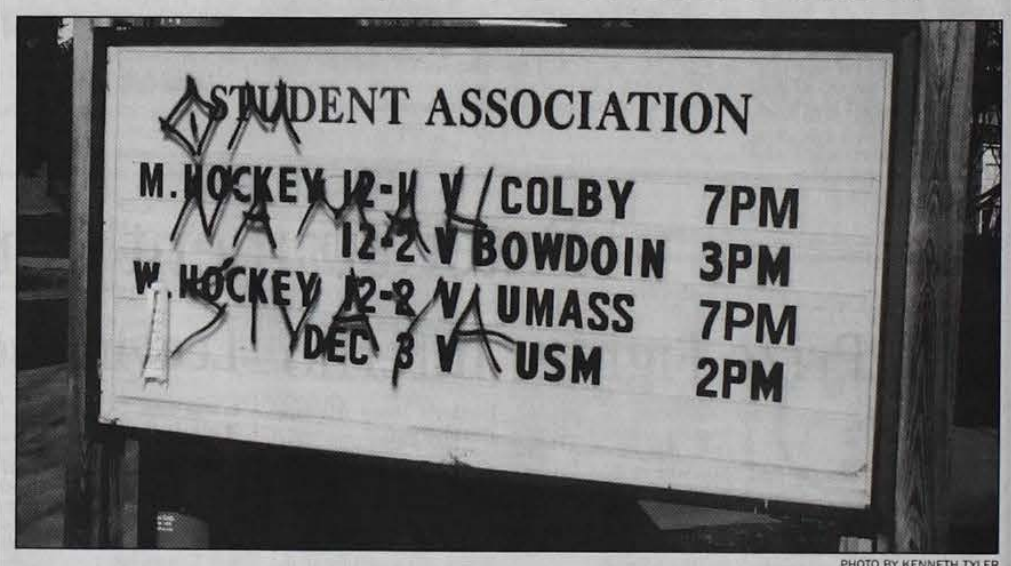


PHOTO BY KENNETH TYLER

Q- If you had your own reality show, what would it be like?

Joanna Cardillo-
"It would be a camera following me around, from audition to audition, in hopes of me becoming a SUPERSTAR."

Kimmai Nunnery-
"Riding my bike, Mario, peanut butter cookies, snowboarding, planting seeds, making pizza, drinking double bags, learning to skate, saving the environment, and reintroducing the bartering system."

Dakota Trufant-
"A day in the life of Swindles."

Kyle Laferriere-
"The search for the ultimate bar. It would be called 'Shane 54's search for the ultimate bar'"

Josh Racicot-
"Think 'cops' - the same concept, but based in Castleton. Because cops bust enough."

Nice to meet you, Randy

By Jazmin Averbuck
Spartan Staff

Name: Randy Ingram
Birthday: August 8th
Birthplace: Dallas, Texas
Favorite color: "Forest green"
Favorite season: "Winter"
Why: "Ski"
Quote that you live by: "Oh wad some power that giftie gie us...to see oursel's as others see us." - Robert Burns
Current job title: "Assistant Professor"
How long have you been working at CSC: "One and a half years"
Where did you work before this: "10 years before working here I worked for the Alley Theater in Houston"
What is the best thing about your job: "watching when the students get it."
What has been the worst catastrophe you have had to deal with on stage: "Someone kicked a metal goblet and it hit another actor, cutting her head, and than the director fell down the stairs and cut his head when he went to check on the other actor."
What has been the most intricate set design you have created: "For "Preacher With a Horse to Ride". It was four towers that moved on stage and inside each was a projector and projector screen."
When did you realize that this was what you wanted to do as a profession: "High school, when I was involved in shows"
Any additional things you would like to share with students at CSC: "Don't give up. If its something you really want to do, don't let anyone say you can't do it."

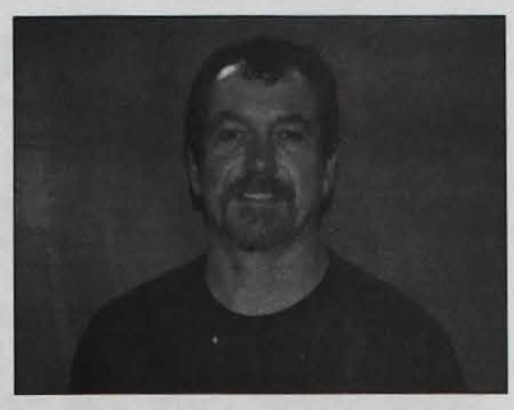


PHOTO BY KENNETH TYLER
RANDY INGRAM

Towards the light

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ANDREW NARDONE
Fil Samaha scales the rock-climbing wall in a competition against Green Mountain College at the Rutland rock-climbing gym.

Alumni profile

Rebecca Becker

Going to Castleton was, honestly, the best thing for me. It sculpted me into who I am now and where I am now. After graduating from a competitive high school in Connecticut many of my peers went off to Ivy League Colleges, as well as other pier one institutions.

I would envy them at first, but learned fast that I was at a school that could compete with theirs. Castleton provided me with an unbelievable education, social skills and a beautiful and peaceful place to learn. And to be able to sit in a small class room with a small class size and have such individual attention from professors that outweigh many out there was worth a million dollars.

To be honest I cried so hard when I graduated in May of 2004. I still, when the end of August rolls around, get nostalgic for Castleton and returning back for another exciting semester.

I absolutely loved going back at the end of the summer. Of course, I missed Nantucket, but getting back into the swing of things was a piece of cake. Each semester I would get so excited to meet and learn from my professors.

I could have majored in anything from geology to sociology, because each professor in each department, I felt, brought such a strong enthusiasm to the class. I have been living on the island of Nantucket year-round for about three years now. I absolutely love living here. Some might remember my slight infatuation with the island from college.

After I graduated in May of 2004 I decided to come out to Nantucket for another summer of fun before getting too serious with a career or major move. I think something in me knew I would probably not be leaving Nantucket anytime soon.

Previously, I had spent time on here during the peak summer months working and having fun in between years at college - highly recommended.

I landed a job at the end of "my last summer fling" with Nantucket working with a high-end interior designer at her shop - Cabbage Rose Interiors. It was a great job - tons of fun and I got to meet lots of interesting people (especially famous ones).

I left when a position in advertising opened up at a local Nantucket magazine - N Magazine. The magazine, launched in 2002, has now partnered with Boston Magazine, among others, and remains the most read magazine on the island.

The community on Nantucket reminds me in many ways of the Castleton community. It is a tight knit community, with a lot of heart and sole, as well as strong livers - if you know what I mean.

While living on Nantucket these past few years I have tried to be as active with Castleton as I possibly can - which is slightly hard being on an island. I was able to make a trip up this past fall and was astonished at the changes. It looks great! I always knew Castleton was one of the few colleges nationwide that was a best kept secret. I am thrilled as Castleton embarks on such popularity and recognition it remains to be a small school and continues to promote its philosophy of being a small school with a big heart.

This past summer I was able to sell necklaces, made by people of Project Chacocente, Nicaragua, here on Nantucket. I had the pleasure to experience working at Project Chacocente, Nicaragua, my senior year and try so hard to keep that wonderful experience alive in my life. Once I learned some of the people living at the project were making necklaces I thought how good they would sell here during the summer months. With big help from a local jewelry store I was able to have a case dedicated to the necklaces this summer, a few kid's I often baby-sit for walked up and down the beaches selling them, and I sported one of the necklaces for about four months and got lots of leads and sales that way. Needless to say they were a smash hit.

I do put my journalism degree to good use by writing every now-and-then. I have been working on a few book ideas - mostly children's books, and plays. I hope to see one of my plays on the new Castleton stage one day. Hopefully, sooner then later.

I am also excited to play an active role in planning for Castleton's Boston reunion this January. It will be held at a fabulous new spot, Panificio, in the North End and details are slowly, but surely, rolling in. Please read emails with updates on the reunion, as well as the Castleton Website. Also, visit the venues website www.Panificiobackbay.com It was rated best new restaurant in Boston for 2006.

Castleton will always have a large part reserved in my heart.

Pride Day returns

PHOTO BY JAZMIN AVERBUCK
Matthew Sargent, Laura Olson, and Lesley Hubbard ask trivia questions at their table at Pride Day.

By Jazmin Averbuck
Spartan Staff

They were there to both ask and answer questions.

With a table in the campus center full of rainbow stickers and PRIDE bears, many people stopped on Nov. 29 to answer trivia questions from those behind the table about the GLBT community to win a beanie bear.

The table was set up as part of a campus-wide PRIDE Day, sponsored by the One in Ten club.

One in Ten is run by Raymond Boule, president, Laura Olson, vice president, Lesley Hubbard, secretary, and Treasurer Jen Morey.

The club is open to everyone on campus with its motto of "Adam and Eve, Amy and Eve, or Adam and Steve — whatever makes you happy."

The group meets every Monday night at 7 p.m. in the formal lounge of the campus center.

PRIDE Day was the first event that One in Ten has sponsored in quite some time, club officials said, adding that they were pleased with the turnout.

The day kicked off at noon in the campus center where members of the club took turns asking passers-by trivia questions for prizes.

A sample question included "What does GLBT stand for?" Answer: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender.

All across campus there were students, gay and straight, who wore rainbow wristbands and stickers and pins supporting gay pride.

At 6 p.m., the event ended in Herrick Auditorium with free pizza, more trivia, and a viewing of the movie "But I'm a Cheerleader."

Vail still trying to spend more

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

The possibility of a adding a campus skate park or hosting a big-name concert does not seem far fetched to Student Association President Steven Vail.

Vail, who is trying to get more student appeal in the club, is taking student requests and hoping to make them a reality.

"My hands are tied in terms of Aramark," Vail said, of ongoing student gripes about campus food before talking about student suggestions that he can help with. "I take opinions to heart and then bring them to the executive board to discuss."

At the end of last semester, the SA had around $60,000 to use for "capital improvements and benefit of the entire college community," said Victoria Angis, the assistant dean of campus life and SA advisor. The money comes from the activity fee that students pay every semester.

And Vail is calling for the student body to help spend it.

He stated that there are 40 clubs on campus and he wants to see them "spend more money and become more involved."

In another attempt to draw student's attention, the SA circulated a survey about a skate park after several requests from students. They are now collecting data to take to Castleton President Dave Wolk. Vail said movement on a park isn't likely until next spring at the earliest.

Others think that the money should go elsewhere.

"The whole college court is against the skate park," said Tara Chagnon, chief justice of the college court. "They should give the money back to students or use it to benefit all students, unlike a skate park that benefits a select few."

Dean of Student Life Greg Stone said that the process for clubs to get money is significantly easier than before.

"We decide based on interest and student needs," Vail said about the allocation of funds.

But he said the SA needs more student voices in where to spend the money. Only 15 percent of the student body voted in the last election, which was a record-breaking turnout. Vail and Chagnon urge students to run or at least vote in the elections.

"Personally, the only thing I want to accomplish is to get more people involved," Vail said.

Stone points to decreased visibility as part of the reason for less involvement.

"They can't be the defender of good against evil," he said, explaining how there is less contention between the administration and the SA since the club has become the representative of students' opinions.

Before, students would take their concerns straight to the administration where they would be denied because there were no plans behind their proposal. Students now first go to the SA, where a plan is formulated before being brought before the administration, Stone said.

To interest more people in the association, Vail is opening the executive board meetings to all students.

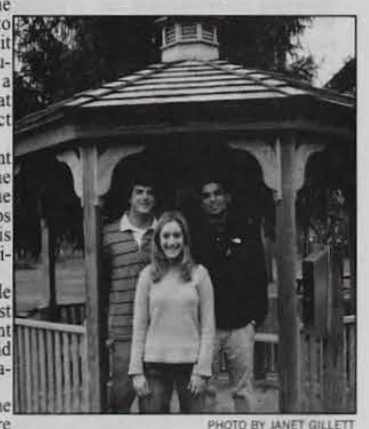


PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT
SA executive board members stand in the gazebo purchased by the SA.

Men off to good start; women hit bumpy road

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

With only two seniors and five juniors, Castleton's men's hockey team started their season off on the right foot.

The Spartan men opened their season with a 2-2 tie with St. Anselm. The conference game remained scoreless until Castleton's Brandon Heck scored at 1:23 in the third period. The Hawks answered 14 seconds later off a shot from Chris O'Brien and would then take a 2-1 lead. The Spartans forced the game into overtime after a goal by Jared Lavender. Goalie Jeff Swanson made 36 saves to help the team start its season at 0-0-1.

Despite a second game shutout at the hands of New England College, coach Alex Todd's squad then went on to rack up three straight wins.

Tied at 1-1 at the end of the first period, both Plymouth State and Castleton remained scoreless in the second period. The Spartans than took the lead, but following penalties that left Castleton down two men, the game was once again tied. Castleton came back to win 3-2 on a game-winning goal by Steve Culbertson.

"I think we're battling a lot of bad penalties. It's been a good year so far but it's scary to think of how good it could be without the penalties," said Todd.

In their home opener, the Spartans defeated Becker 6-2 and in their third consecutive win, topped No. 15 ranked Colby 3-1. In their first conference game, Swanson stopped 34 shots while Ryan Bartlett, Ross Carmichael and Steve Smiddy each had a goal.

A day later, the Spartans had another chance to upset a Division III nationally ranked squad. Facing off against No. 11 Bowdoin, the squad tied the game at 1-1 in the second period and took a one goal lead in the third with five minutes left. With just under three minutes remaining, Castleton committed two penalties leading to a 6-on-3 power-play and a goal by the Bears with 20 seconds left. Swanson made 29 saves for the Spartans to help keep Bowdoin at bay and keep the game tied 2-2 after overtime.

"It feels good," said Todd. "It's always satisfying to get payback for your time and energy."

The Spartans head into a home match-up against Cortland State Friday with a 1-1-2 ECAC East record and 3-1-2 overall record.

Women's Hockey

Castleton's women's hockey team has faced not only tough opponents, but a tough adjustment within the team as well. After coaching the first five games this season, coach Craig Paiement resigned due to health reasons.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ENNIS DULING

Castleton State hockey player checks Bowdoin player into wall during their Dec. 2 home game.

"Knowing that a friend and someone you respect is going through a tough time with their health is not easy, and I know that it has affected everyone involved with our team," said Paiement's successor, coach David Stockdale. "I'm very proud of the effort they have consistently shown under such difficult circumstances."

After defeating M.I.T. six days earlier, the Spartans fell 4-2 to the Engineers in a non-conference game. Despite tying the game at 2-2 in the third period, M.I.T. answered with two more goals on a 5-on-4 power-play and an open net.

The Spartans then went scoreless against Holy Cross before bouncing back to shut out Plymouth State 5-0 for their first win under Stockdale. Katelyn Greene led the squad with two goals and one assist. Vanessa Carter made 19 saves.

Stockdale's team dropped a conference match-up against St. Michael's after holding a 4-3 advantage until nine minutes remained. The Purple Knights' Amy Schoon tied the game on a power play and Melissa Gagne scored the game winner with just over a minute remaining.

In play this past weekend, the Spartans fell to UMass Boston 8-1 and Southern Maine 5-4. Behind 7-0, Castleton was unable to score against UMass Boston until the middle of the third period, too late in the match to come back. Maryanne Diehm scored the lone goal.

After breaking a 2-2 tie in the final period on goals from Adrianna Riggio and Steph Purinton, the Spartans took a 4-2 lead over USM. However, Castleton couldn't hold on as the Huskies rallied for three goals in the last eight minutes of play. USM's Caitlin Tassone scored the game-winning goal with 26 seconds left.

"We talked to our kids about finishing games strong and putting teams away when you get them down," Stockdale said. "Southern Maine has an experienced team with 7 or 8 seniors, and we have 11 freshmen and no seniors, so it's all part of the learning process for us. As much as it hurts to lose a game like that, we have to remember how bad it felt and use it as an opportunity to grow as a team, so that it doesn't happen again."

With the loss to USM, the Spartans fell to 2-7 overall and 0-7 in the ECAC East League.

"We are making an effort to step up our aggressiveness in all three zones, and we have to cut down on the number of penalties we are taking. Shorthanded situations have cost us in a number of games this season," Stockdale said.

The team is back in action this weekend with a two-game series at R.I.T and finishes the semester on the road against Amherst Dec. 13.

Atheletic trainers keeping teams in action

By Janet Perron
Spartan Staff

At the end of a narrow hallway next to Glenbrook gym, athletes who walk through the door into the athletic training room are greeted by a full body skeleton hanging on a pole, its feet dangling just above the floor.

Posters of muscles hang on the wall above a row of green tables with Spartans stitched into the sides. The counter opposite the mats is lined with jars full of gauze and cotton balls and a small metal container filled with sterile scissors. Behind the closed cupboards and drawers are pre-wrap, tape and other supplies to treat injured athletes.

"This will help you find out if you want to do it or not," said senior Derek Deyong of the 800 hours each athletic training major must complete in the athletic training room before graduation -- not to mention five clinical experiences with Castleton sports teams and an off campus experience as well.

"On campus you know everyone," Deyong said, adding that working off campus with the Rutland High School football team, "it was interesting too see how to build relationships" with athletes.

Deyong said football has the most injuries, but hockey has a lot as well. Deyong, in an Easton Hockey sweatshirt, shorts, sneakers and a baseball cap, spoke of how he played Castleton hockey for three years, but took this season off to stand on the sidelines to fulfill his athletic training requirements.

Deyong said he has to be "watching the injuries and not watching the game" because players often don't tell the athletic trainer if they are injured out of fear of being benched.

PHOTO BY JANET PERRON

Basketball player Zach Briggs gets his ankle wrapped by athletic trainer Megan Robitaille.

Each home game has a certified athletic trainer and possibly a student trainer, but because hockey is such a contact sport, certified athletic trainer Josh Englebretson travels with the men's hockey team to away games. Englebretson is often found in his office in the training room and interacting with students and athletes.

There were a few laughs among students junior Megan Robitaille and sophomore Hilary Delp about having to cough up 25 cents to Englebretson every time they call themselves trainers instead of athletic trainers.

Englebretson said it is because they are not dog trainers or circus trainers -- but trainers for athletes. "We live in here," Robitaille said. "I guess I found my calling."

Robitaille continued saying how she was formally a nursing major at another college then transferred to Castleton for athletic training.

"You get both perspectives," she said about being both an athlete, playing softball for Castleton, and an athletic trainer.

She does her hours before the season starts so she does not have to worry about cramming them in during the season. Not all of the ATs are athletes and those who are can only participate in one sport a year, as a rule of the program.

There are 18 students presently in the program "with 40 freshmen interested" said certified athletic trainer Elly Ventura, who has been working at Castleton for three years, her eyes growing wider at the thought of the number. Not all will become part of the program because there is an application process with observation hours, letters of recommendation, a certain grade point average and required classes as qualifications.

"They apply spring of their freshman year, they get in fall of their sophomore year and start with the teams that semester," Ventura said.

When asked if the program will accept all who qualify, Ventura, lying on the mat helping Robitaille study for a test the next day, pausing every few words to assist her in how to do the movements of her leg better or commenting on her doing it perfectly, said, "Most end up changing their major first. We lose a third to a half of them."

Ventura said there isn't a maximum number of students who can be accepted, but even after students are accepted some change their major, fall below the 2.5 required GPA or get a B- or lower in two or more of the core classes. When that happens they re-enroll in the class and try again. The student may be put on probation and once their grades are up, they can be allowed back into the program, Ventura said.

Deyong said when there are no athletes in the athletic training room, he talks with the "certifieds" discussing injuries or studies. Robitaille and sophomore Amanda Peterson do this as well, using each other to practice on because after the written test there is the lab test.

"We are given a scenario and have to solve the problem," Robitaille said laughing and telling Peterson to cooperate while lifting her leg into a 90-degree angle then back down again.

Soon they'd switch so Peterson could practice.

Before practice, Castleton basketball team's Zach Briggs walked in and Robitaille jumped off the table and said "Can I do it?"

With Justin Schwartz, sophomore on the Castleton ski team, in the background getting treatment for his lower back, Robitaille wrapped Briggs right ankle, which was said by many of the athletic trainers to be one of the most common injuries along with injuries wrists, knees and shoulders.

Men's hoop team slides to slow, 1-4 start

By Matt Linden
Sports Editor

The Castleton basketball team started the season losing two of its first three, but had an opportunity to silence critics with games against an in-state rival and Christopher Newport University in Virginia.

Coming off a heartbreaking 88-87 defeat to Plymouth State, the Spartans hosted Middlebury with more than just bragging rights on the line.

Junior guard Rich Reilly and senior forward Jeremy Jorgensen were Castleton's leading scorers heading into last Tuesday's showdown.

The game started off sloppy and both teams had a tough time dealing with the fast-paced tempo. Reilly was quick to make an early statement for the Spartans and scored the team's first two baskets with short-range jumpers.

Castleton struggled to defend Middlebury's inside game, as forward Aaron Smith was able to position himself for 13 first-half points. To make things tougher for the Spartans, senior forward Matt Tomaino got into foul trouble while trying to put a body on Smith.

The Spartans trailed 49-40 in the closing minutes of the half, before junior guard Alden Gregory hit a buzzer-beater to cut the deficit to seven points at halftime.

Middlebury continued its strong low-post play in the second half, and had a comfortable lead over the hosts with twelve minutes remaining. Castleton would actually cut the lead to three, but Middlebury answered back with a three pointer and a forced turnover.

While the Spartans had a pair of second half runs, it was not enough to keep Middlebury at bay as they lost 99-90.

Reilly led the Spartans with a game-high 29 points and five assists, and Jorgensen finished with a double-double of 20 points and 16 rebounds. Middlebury's Smith scored 23 points and had nine boards in a winning effort.

In an unusual road game, Castleton then made the trip last weekend to Virginia to play Christopher Newport University. This was Virginia-native Reilly's homecoming game, and the host school had more than 900 fans in attendance.

The Spartans, fueled by its guard's 14 first-half points, gave Christopher Newport a battle in the game's first twenty minutes. Castleton trailed 33-32 at the half, which put them in position to get a victory on the road.

The Virginia-based school pulled away in the second half and never looked back, as they beat the Spartans 90-68.

Castleton struggled from the foul line, only hitting 50 percent of its free throws for the game, while their opponents shot 82 percent.

Reilly once again had a team-high 22 points in a losing effort for Castleton, and Jorgensen continued to put up double-doubles with 17 points and 11 boards. Freshman forward Zach Briggs, listed at 6-8, started over Tomaino and had a game-high 14 rebounds.

The Castleton men's basketball team, now at 1-4, opens conference play at Lasell College on Friday, and continues the road trip against Lesley on Saturday.

On the women's side, Castleton continues to improve its record with road wins over Wheelock and Bay Path.

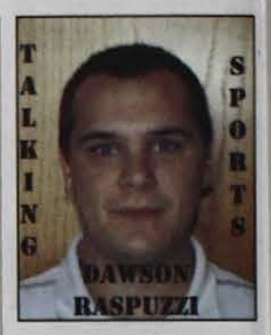
Conference play began successfully for the Lady Spartans on Friday, against a winless Wheelock squad. Castleton had an eleven point lead at the half, which they extended in the final twenty minutes and defeated Wheelock 72-52.

Forward Jenn Whiting led Castleton with 30 points and 11 rebounds, and sophomore guard Jessica Banks chipped in with 14 points and six dimes.

In another conference battle on the road, the Spartans connected on 50% of its field goal attempts to beat Bay Path College 77-49.

Whiting once again scored in double-figures and had 19 points to go along with eight boards. Sophomore guard Mary Nienow had a strong second half and finished the game with 14 points.

The women's team is currently 4-2 (2-0 NAC), and will continue its road trip against conference foe Lasell on Friday.



Relishing Romo

In case you hadn't already heard, Tony Romo has quickly become one of the best quarterbacks in the game. Seven weeks ago he was just another uniform on the sideline holding a clipboard. At that point he had never attempted an NFL pass in his three and a half years with the Cowboys.

Now Romo is getting credit for turning the Cowboys' season around and he's catching the attention of everyone in the process. Although I've never been a Cowboys fan, I have to say it's hard not to like watching Romo play. The way he carries himself and makes tough passes look effortless resembles a 10-year veteran.

After replacing Drew Bledsoe in the Cowboys week-seven loss to the Giants, Romo has been on fire and it doesn't look like there will be any rain clouds to cool him off too soon.

With a cannon for an arm and sniper-like accuracy, the 26-year-old has lifted the Cowboys to the top of the NFC East standings with a 5-1 record since he has taken the starting position.

The relaxed demeanor that has brought success on the field for Romo, his fun loving smile on and off the field, and the way he tries to avoid the spotlight, makes it difficult not to compare him to New England's Tom Brady.

There are more similarities between the two, starting with the fact that they both became starters mid-season by replacing Bledsoe.

Romo signed with the Cowboys as an unknown and undrafted free agent who played his college ball at Division I-AA, Eastern Illinois. Brady put up decent numbers in college with Michigan but was also overlooked by many NFL scouts, not getting drafted until the sixth round, after 198 other players were selected in front of him. Brady sat his first season in the NFL, and was never thought to become more than a good backup option or below average starter.

Brady didn't have the prettiest numbers in 2001 after replacing Bledsoe, but the thing that made him special was that he found a way to win. Brady threw 18 touchdowns and 12 interceptions that season, which is nothing to brag about, but he found a way to win 11 of the 14 games that he started plus another three in the playoffs.

Romo's most recent game on Sunday against the Giants was statistically his worst game of his brief career. He threw two interceptions and had no touchdowns, but the Cowboys still won. When it mattered the most Romo came up huge; throwing a 42-yard pass with under a minute left in a tied game. The reception set up a game winning field goal.

Romo proved that he too can win, even when he doesn't put up stellar numbers.

The way that Romo trotted onto the field gave the impression that he knew Dallas would score before time expired. It was the same exact look that Brady has every time the Patriot's need a score in the last drive of the game. Sure enough, Romo delivered.

Romo's numbers are amongst the top of every category this season. His quarterback rating of 110.8 going into Sunday's game was the highest in the league, and his .833 winning percentage is fourth best behind only Payton Manning, Philip Rivers and the Bears defense, oops, I mean Rex Grossman.

In Romo's seven games he has thrown 13 touchdown passes. Five of those thirteen were thrown in Dallas' Thanksgiving Day game against Tampa Bay, which tied a team record.

Cowboy fans are hoping that Romo can continue drawing comparisons to Brady, and if he does we may see him winning his first Super Bowl this season.

Whether they win or not, I'm sure that Romo will be giving it everything he's got and he'll be enjoying himself while doing it. Everyone watching him should be enjoying it too because he's a special type of player that we don't get to see too often.

The SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, January 31, 2007

Let there be peace

By Bradford Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

In what was one of the larger anti-war rallies to date, thousands of protestors marched on the National Mall and the Capitol Saturday to show their opposition to President Bush's planned troop increase and the Iraq war.

"I came all the way from Kansas just to take part," said Kelly Desrocher from Shawnee, Kan., who took a bus for more than 20 hours just to get to the march. "It was a long ride, but it was worth it to see all these people fighting for the same thing."

Speakers from Rev. Jesse Jackson and Tim Robbins to Sen. Dennis Kucinich and Jane Fonda addressed the massive crowd through Woodstock-like speaker towers.

"Peace is controversial," said Jackson, who addressed the crowd in the early afternoon sun, his back to the Capitol. "But so is war. And the fruit of peace is so much sweeter."

Dozens of different groups were there, ranging from Veterans for Peace and 9-11 Truth, to the Communist newspaper Challenger and conservative groups who picketed the rally and speakers like Jane Fonda with signs that read "Hanoi Jane. Wrong then, wrong now."

The ages of the protestors varied almost as widely as their messages, with newborns to veterans of the peace rallies of the 1960s present.

The prevailing message many protestors came to voice, though, was one of peace. Mike Warren, of New Hampshire, came with a photo of his grandfather, who served in World War II, safety-pinned to the back of his jacket.

"He was a soldier," said Warren, clutching a sign that read 'Out of Iraq,' which was being given out free to many of the protestors. "But he wouldn't have wanted this. I don't think many people do."

A cold winter-like morning quickly warmed to near-spring temperatures, and the amount of protestors rose along with the temperature. What started out as a few rag-tag groupings of protestors at 10 a.m. ballooned to tens of thousands for the march by 1 p.m. After a rousing speech by Robbins, who called multiple times for the impeachment of President Bush, the crowd began at the Mall, marching down Constitution Ave. to the Capitol and wrapping back around to the Mall.

"I've never been to anything this huge before," said Nicole Douglas, 17, a student from a nearby high school who stood on a hill overlooking the Capitol to watch the march. "One of my teachers told us there was some sort of protest going on so we came down, but I didn't think there'd be this many people here. It's pretty exciting."

The protest was led chiefly by the organization United for Peace and Justice, whose Web site describes the group as a "coalition of more than 1,300 local and national groups throughout the United States," including Green Party of the U.S., Iraq Veterans Against the War, Greenpeace, Veterans for Peace, and the National Organization for women.

Smaller groups of protestors gathered in other places near the mall, including in front of the White House, the Washington Monument, and the United States Navy Memorial.

According to the Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, a Web site which tracks numbers from the Department of Defense, at least 3,065 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraq and 22,834 have been wounded.

Lining the streets and sides of the mall, protestors wore t-shirts with dozens of different messages, including "War? WTF?" and bold signs showing George W. Bush in a noose and the words "Impeach Now" emblazoned on over the image.

Two other students held a banner which read "Bombing for Peace is like F**king for Virginity."

Protestors from Vermont were in abundance and seemed to be the most numerous of organized state-representing groups.

Other protestors took a more elaborate approach to speaking out, using enormous puppets, controlled by four people each, of the Devil and the Virgin Mary, which were raised high above the crowd. Four others walked around in elaborate clay heads depicting Bush, Cheney, Condoleezza Rice and Donald Rumsfeld in prison stripes.

"If the best thing we can do is hold some of these people accountable for what they've done, I think we've been successful," said Greg Steward, a 44-year old from Amherst, Mass. "I don't see how, with this many people pushing for it, it hasn't already happened."

For more on the peace march in Washington D.C. see page 6

Writing standards will remain the same

By Shou Watanabe
Spartan Staff

Castleton State College has a unique way of testing students before they are allowed to graduate - and it flies in the face of the computer age.

The Writing Standard test requires students to use the old fashioned pen and blue test book to complete - and Castleton is the only college in Vermont requiring it.

Despite the fact that professors routinely require students to hand in only computer-generated work, the Writing Standard test takes students back to before the computer age - and some are wondering why?

"I think it's dumb," senior Anthony Scott said before break, after just completing the test.

He believes the testing should be done on a computer and he doesn't understand why it needs to be hand-written.

"It's just more work for the students and it's unnecessary," he said.

But faculty members and administrators said there is a reason for the old-style testing.

English Professor Drennan Spitzer said she supports the method.

"The system isn't perfect, but it's the only way we can make sure that students are not cheating," she said.

Associate Academic Dean Renny Harrigan agrees.

"You are expected to do the whole thing yourself. That means without using spell check or grammar check," she said, with a slight smile.

Harrigan said that being able to write well by hand will only benefit students in the real world. Not always are they going to have their computer and all its tools handy when writing needs to be done, she said.

And from a practical standpoint, English Professor Dennis Shramek said the college doesn't have enough computers for students to take the tests on at the same time.

Shramek, who is on the school's Writing Committee, said if the college gets more computers, testing might be able to be done on them.

But Harrigan said that won't ever happen.

"No. The testing will remain the same," she said, adding that hand-writing skills are vital for a college student to master.

The ever-continuing struggle for equality

By Eva Kane Leonman
Spartan Staff

As a freshman living on an all-girl's floor in Ellis Hall last year, Laura Olson experienced her first outward display of homophobia – the word 'queer' scrawled on her dorm-room door.

"No one really knew that I was gay," Olson, a sophomore communications major said.

Once word got out that she was, a rumor started that she had a crush on a straight girl on the floor, which evidently led to her door being defaced.

Yet, despite feeling like her security was shattered at a time when she was trying to adapt herself to the college environment, Olson feels that overall, Castleton State College is an accepting campus.

"The response to what happened was very proactive, and I feel like people cared about making things better," Olson said.

Support and acceptance

Olson says her fear is that in a liberal state at a liberal school like CSC, that people are under the impression that there is no need for Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender (GLBT) rights advocacy.

"They think that supporting clubs like One in Ten isn't important because our campus is already liberal, but there are bigots everywhere," she said. "Even if every person on campus was an ally, the GLBT community still does not have equal rights, and every person that fights for securing these rights is so important."

Raymond Boule, a junior, thinks that CSC is very passive in its attempts to make the GLBT community feel comfortable.

"I think that CSC community means well in thinking that if we don't make a big deal of it then it is still acceptable and there is no inequality," Boule said.

Meredith Fletcher, who works as the staff assistant to the academic dean's office, echoes Olson's sentiments, saying that even though her and her partner live 100 percent like any other married couple, "there are still over 1,000 rights we are not afforded, mostly on the federal level."

And even though they have a civil union, Fletcher said she feels as if she and her partner are still looked upon as second-class citizens.

"It would nice to be seen as equal by the straight people of the world," Fletcher said.

The last decade

Fletcher believes that being gay or bisexual is more accepted now than it was when she was a student at CSC

"Ten years ago it was definitely a different atmosphere," Fletcher said, recalling how she knew some people, all men, who were harassed for being gay, like getting pornographic tapes sent to them with "nasty notes and so forth."

Fletcher said even her best friend in college became "gay by association" even though her friend was straight and had a boyfriend.

"Even though we were never together in a sexual way," Fletcher said, "the girls on one of the other floors would stand on their balcony and throw snowballs at us and yell obscen-

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Mitch Wenz offers his take on student Mike Weins' first documentary.

The SPARTAN
CASTLETON STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIALS

Pub it up

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

Castleton, I'm calling you out.

That's right. The gloves are coming off, the sleeves are rolling up, and I'm ready to throw down like an Irishman on St. Patrick's Day.

I am the Rocky Balboa of student journalists - punchy and completely willing to lead with my face.

All kidding aside, I do think it's time that Castleton, the "small college with a big heart," take a stand against any naysayers and give us what we want.

Give us our bloody pub.

Yes that's right. I want a place where I can gather with my friends (of legal age, of course) and enjoy a nice cold brewskie or two. And I'm not talking about one of those "once in a while" kind of places either. I'm talking about a bar, tavern, alehouse, taproom, or whatever the hell you wish to call it

Students need a watering hole.

And no, The Dog is not my idea of an acceptable watering hole. The Dog is like porn - it serves its purpose, but you feel real dirty when you're done with it.

I'm talking about a social gathering spot, a classy joint where everyone can enjoy themselves after a long day of cramming for classes or nursing hangovers.

Looking for a way to keep students from going home every weekend? Give them a place to chill out! Students are always complaining about how little there is to do around here on weekends.

Plus, people like myself are often crammed with work schedules all week long. We could use a little refreshment on the weekends to recharge our batteries.

I'm not an alcoholic and this isn't about alcohol. I can buy a sixer of Wolavers or a bottle of Johnnie Walker anywhere. What I can't do is gather with my friends, or even professors, and simply sit back and enjoy a mellow evening on a barstool. Not in Castleton, anyway.

Give us a permanent pub! A place where people can gather to relax, play pool, dance, read poetry, and have legitimate beer pong contests for prizes or something. Bring in some bands, too! Because you know damn well that no one is going to see them play at Fireside.

It could have a fancy-dancy name like The Glass Onion, The Round Room, The Pawn Shop, or a dozen other musically-inspired things. Let the students name it! Personally, I'd name it The Limelight - cuz Neil Peart rawks.

It'll have the class of Starbucks, without all of the snooty, Ipod-era, ass-clowns or the $10 coffee.

I'm not even making this an issue about drinking age, because Castleton has already decided to host a few of these pub nights with help from many students and professors. This is a brilliant idea, but it's only the beginning. The school, if they are willing to make this a permanent fixture on campus, could very well see an even greater increase in student enrollment.

That means more money for the school, more money for PARKING and a million other things that the school desperately needs. Plus, it might even be a way to help keep tuition costs in check, but who knows.

I'm not an alcoholic and this isn't about alcohol. I can buy a sixer of Wolavers or a bottle of Johnnie Walker anywhere. What I can't do is gather with my friends, or even professors, and simply sit back and enjoy a mellow evening on a barstool. Not in Castleton, anyway.

I'm urging the school, as well as the town, to seriously consider making the vision that these students and professors share a reality.

Please don't force us to The Dog - don't make us resort to porn.

Give us our pub - please.

FLY OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE
www.castletonspartan.com
SEE YOU THERE

YOUR THOUGHTS

A call to President Wolk: Take Back Our Campus!

Define the bounds of our campus community. Protect us, secure our sanctity and behold this honored environment. Those that keep us safe within the campus are ordered, delineated and defined. Exclude the transgressors who in their acts with malice find cause to collect fines and fees for the Town of Castleton and the State of Vermont within the campus.

In the deep black darkness of the night they come, the Rutland District Sheriff and The Town of Castleton Police, lurk behind the backs of our respected campus security officials. Such monetary resource as they might forcibly extract by the court are needed for the benefit of our campus home.

The Castleton State College campus is in need of a clearly defined document delineating what entity holds responsibility for the Castleton State College Campus roadways, parking lots, exits and entrances. Research with the Town of Castleton, Deeds and Records would establish the ownership of some roadways and undefined parking areas in question within the college campus. Parking areas are not clearly defined from roadways.

That which constitutes the limits of an undefined parking area needs clarification. This document would legally and clearly define the limits to include or exclude the Rutland District Sheriff at Rutland City and the Town of Castleton Police to perform motor vehicle enforcement or related assumed authority on campus. Such a white paper would be published as legal policy and made available to the Castleton State College community.

Conflict does exist between The Rutland District Sheriff's department and the Town of Castleton Police as to where their beginning and ending areas of influence exist.

Outside law enforcement agencies are always welcomed on campus. Protocol does exist to a degree. Protocol must be followed by the Rutland District Sheriff and the Town of Castleton Police without their self imposed exclusion.

During the hours preceding this event, by his word, Bob Godlewski, Director of Public Safety had not called for public assistance from the Town of Castleton or the Rutland District Sheriffs Department. In the first few minutes on the 13th of May, 2006, very early graduation morning, parked immediately outside the SAC Academic Computer Center, side by side was the Town of Castleton police vehicle and that of the Rutland District Sheriff. Departing with Bill Duezeminski, a Castleton security officer, I remarked their presence was odd. Jokingly to him, I wondered if the town cruiser had a motor in it. In this early morning before graduation no other vehicles were present save mine, parked close by. The campus was devoid of everyone. That hour was exceptionally quite, no wind. the creatures of night, silent. Under no adverse influence, exhausted from many hours of study, I gathered a foothold on reality. In the calmness and the quiet of the night my vehicle rolled slowly toward home.

Just before the "choke"in the parking lot road, by the staff parking area on my left and before the fine arts center an explosion of light occurred. There had been no vehicles with lights on following me. No blue lights were flashing. No ominous, rasping burp, burp of a warning. It was an insidious explosion of a white, very bright, light. Startled and unnerved by the fractured field of stabbing light, without vision, my vehicle came to a quick stop.

It seems to be standard practice that both in diction and manner of address to acerbate the situation might in some way satisfy the officer's ego. This came forth giving in a spit it out diction. It was far too rapid for a clear understanding. To humiliate and verbally abuse by diction is not necessary. Confused, blinded, with great difficulty maintaining calm, one wonders.

My 1991 vehicle apparently was a little too noisy for him. For many months it had bothered no individual or enforcement officer. All those parts rattling around in an old clunker take more than a Vermont ear to call it noisy. As he poked his head in the window to smell my breath, look for the open container, the nickel bag open on the seat or the lighted joint, he was crestfallen. My seat belt was not fastened. Well, at least that is something for the treasury and the reputation.

Both the vehicles of the Castleton Police and the Rutland District Sheriff were immediately outside the SAC Academic Computer Center as I came out. Both vehicles were behind me when I came to a stop just before the Fine Arts Center. Both claimed the legal right to perform their duties on campus. In regards to having an equipment violation, a muffler, that was not the case.

My vehicle was not objectionably noisy. My seat belt was not fastened due to having not yet left the campus at the Seminary Street gate. At least they might have waited

' The notice from the White River Junction Judicial Bureau to appear at the Rutland Distract Court arrived with the date set for August 31st. A guilty verdict was expected which proved true especially with self representation. The next step with self representation is the appeal. When extensive irregularities exist one seeks a trial by jury. Mediation followed on January 17, 2007. As expected the States Attorney offered to drop all charges. Not wanting to accept such an offer in light of erratic testimony given by the Castleton Police Officer the Judge prevailed, preventing a trial by jury and the case from going forward.

Not having to pay a fine was no reward for the great injustice rendered to me on the campus of my college.

Respectfully,

Kenneth B. Lewis
Graduate Student
Castleton State College

Museums were more interesting

By Bradford Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

"Oh my God, there are so many cute radicals here."

Three girls, decked out in alluringly tight jeans, army-style drab jackets and calf-hugging boots agreed wholeheartedly with the girl who said this, the fourth and final one in the group and the only one who didn't have short, black hair.

Nothing I heard over the course of my nearly eight-hour stay in D.C. for the March on Washington peace rally summed up the day better.

The group of girls was one of many tight-knit little collectives which rambled around the Mall throughout the course of the day, yelling out slogans for the impeachment of Bush and carrying signs with equally quotable slogans before congregating in a huge, roaring mass as they got closer to the Capitol building.

Except that the mass didn't roar. The speakers they had (ranging from a rabbi to a hip-hop group to Tim Robbins) were all adamant about their messages for peace, some visibly moved or upset during their moment on the podium, to scattered cheers and applause.

The majority of the crowd, though, stood and watched. There were a few people who walked around with megaphones, trying their best to get the crowd riled up. Looking at the faces of many of the people there, I couldn't help but notice that most people were simply content.

Through all my interviews and buzzing around taking photos I couldn't shake the feeling that people were simply there because it was Saturday and, really, what else was there to do?

There were no overtly radical speeches, no violent flare-ups, no one saying anything different than the same stuff people have been saying for years on talk shows, Web sites and political debates and the biggest message seemed to be that Congress was watching and heard the message loud and clear. Apparently they work on Saturdays now.

What happened to the days when peace marches meant something? And why stage one when Congress is already pushing for an end to the war. If the President doesn't listen to Congress, he won't listen to the public (and hasn't for years now). Protestors are either preaching to the choir or yelling at a wall. Peace comes from a constant struggle for change and the vast majority of people at this march were Weekend Peaceniks, not warriors in some universal fight for peace. I have no doubt as to the sincerity of many of the people I talked to but there were just as many who seemed to be following others around and saying things they thought they were expected to say.

People have already said the peace movement in this country is dead and the march did prove them wrong. It says something that so many people gathered together for one cause. But we need someone with an original message. After the first few speakers took the stage, loops of the best parts of their speeches could have been played and it wouldn't have sounded much different than what the rest of the days speakers had to say. "Impeach Bush", "This war is a travesty", and "The soldiers need to come home" are all immensely obvious things to say and it's the same things I hear when walking through the halls of Castleton.

Anything that a college student can come up with is not what should be blasting from the speakers as the heads of the anti-war movement address a crowd.

The rally organizers will undoubtedly call the march a success, considering the huge amount of people who showed up, but it was no victory. In the morning the politicians still do what they want, no important people who could actually change a single thing about the war showed up to speak or march and Tim Robbins is still just an actor. A peace rally is not a success until it brings about peace.

The peace movement needs an original group of outspoken individuals, people who have the power to actually change things and make a difference. We need solutions, not slogans and pointless banter from actors and Jesse Jackson.

Maybe then more people will go to these things looking for peace instead of a hot night out with a cute boy in a bandanna.

Local borders require passports for air travel

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

A little navy blue, 24-page book sticks out of the pocket of the person next in line. A gold bald eagle on the front cover glistens under the lights. Inside are the stamps of previous adventures. He goes to grab it to present it at airport check-in. But, this time he is not heading home from a luxurious European vacation.

On Jan. 23, anyone traveling by air between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda, including U.S. citizens, was suddenly required to present a valid passport. This was step one of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), the next phase will occur Jan. 1, 2008 and cover all other forms of transportation - like driving to Canada.

New regulations

According to the Department of State, the goal of WHTI is to "strengthen border security and facilitate entry in the United States ... and allow the Department of Homeland Security to quickly, reliably and accurately identify a traveler."

In 2004, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) ordered the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop and implement a plan that required all travelers entering the country to present a passport. Currently, U.S. citizens need only to present a birth certificate or driver's license or may make a verbal declaration of citizenship to re-enter from a Western Hemisphere country.

"I don't think it's going to affect students any more than if they were traveling any place else," said student Justine Campbell.

Under the new regulations, other forms of documentation other than a passport that will be accepted are the Nexus Air card and the Merchant Mariner Document. A PASS card is also in the development stages. This credit card sized, limited use passport will be available for land and sea travel only and will not be accepted for re-entry from South or Central America.

"The new regulations, while they may seem required, are a bit much and will seem to seclude Americans from the rest of the world as in some ways it will make travel much more tedious," said Chris Low, a CSC junior.

A lack of a passport will lead to a secondary screening at the place of re-entry. During the screening, officers will evaluate any evidence of citizenship or identity and will verify all information against any available databases. However, the requirement may be waived under certain circumstances including individual cases of unforeseen emergency or cases based on "humanitarian or nation interest reasons."

Cost analysis

Currently, approximately a quarter of the eligible population (over 70 million people) hold valid passports. In 2006, 12.1 million passports were issued. Following the increasing trend since 2002, the U.S. Department of State anticipates the demand to rise to 16 million

in the 2007 fiscal year. The DHS preformed an economic cost analysis for air travel based primarily on data from the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries (OTTI). The analysis concludes that any economic effects will mainly be short term. It infers that in the long run, passports will become a normal part of all international travel and routine in the travel-planning process.

"It might be a little bit more work, but I've only been to Canada once so it doesn't really influence me more than people who go a lot," Campbell said.

The conclusion was determined from a best, worst and most likely case scenario for the total cost of estimated passports demanded in the first and second year of the rule for travelers to WHTI countries. During the first year, the best case is estimated at approximately $519 million with the worst case being at $1,621 billion. According to DHS, the cost will more likely be about $600 million. In the second year, those numbers are expected to decrease to $45 million (best case), $424 million (worst case) and $86 million (most likely).The cost analysis also briefly takes in to consideration the indirect costs to industries that support travelers. If travelers give up some trips to WHTI countries due to passport cost or the hassle of obtaining one, those indirectly affected include air carriers, airports, travel agents and tour operators.

"If I wish to travel I feel that I will travel nonetheless," Low said. "Ultimately they (other citizens) will travel and agree to this as they have every other regulation as long as the government preys upon people's sensitivity to the 9/11 incident."

The routine of juggling work and school

By Chris Pechuta
Spartan Contributor

It's 11:45 on Monday night and Lauren Edge has just returned to her apartment after eight hours of work and a full day of classes. She knows that she has at least four hours of homework to do and has class at 10 a.m.

She knows that tomorrow she has to perform this routine all over again.

Lauren is a senior geology major trying to make time for classes while serving as a teaching assistant chemistry lab, and working a full time job. This balancing act of juggling a job and classes is one that more college students are facing.

In a freshmen poll, taken at Castleton State College earlier this year, 186 said that their biggest fear was not having enough money to do all the things they want to do.

Dennis Proulx, director of Residence Life, thinks that this feeling comes from college being more of a lifestyle these days than the quest for higher learning it used to be.

With the need of money for food, gas, clothing, entertainment and social events, "Students are working more," said Proulx.

With a slight smile he added "It's just the reality."

Proulx said that the school provides clean housing and the dining hall so students should be able to focus on classes. He said he does understand, however, that some students also feel the need to have a job outside of school, although he classifies attending college as a full-time job.

When asked about students coping with a mixed work load, he said "It's a juggling of values."

Shea Bigsby is a junior who is attempting to join the work force of the Diamond Run Mall. When asked why, her face lit up in a big smile.

"I just found an apartment that I want, and I need to pay rent," she said. "I hate living on campus."

Living off campus seems to be a main reason why students work while going to school.

"It's my own damn fault," said Sarahbeth Oddy, with a broad, beaming smile and arms waiving for emphasis.

Oddy said she chose to live off campus and understands the responsibility and expenses that go along with it.

"I have to work. I have to," she said, still waving her arms, before suddenly forcing them to stop on her thighs.

Oddy works two jobs at the Diamond Run Mall to pay for rent, gas, and food. She is also the treasurer of Stage Left (the Castleton Theatre Club), and was props master for last semester's 'The Man of La Mancha' musical.

Terry Badman is another student who works in order to live off campus. Badman works from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday at Questech in Rutland.

"Class work is suffering," Badman said in a recent interview.

Working 45 hours a week, while taking a full course load, does take its toll after a while, he said.

"But Dave gave me a kick in the ass," he said with a laugh referring to David Blow, a Castleton State communication professor.

Castleton Students aren't alone in this issue.

Students who work more then 20 hours a week begin to see a negative impact on grades, according to a national study done by ACT Inc. The stress of time management can get to students.

Students working excessive hours is something Academic Dean Joe Mark is very aware of.

"Unquestionably, I am concerned about the extent to which some students taking full course loads are working. I understand that many students must work to pay for their education. But students who enroll for 12 to 18 credits shouldn't work more than 10 to 15 hours per week if at all possible," he said in an e-mailed response. "As I say to incoming new students, if you're going to be a full-time student, that should be your full-time job. You ought to be spending 40 hours a week on the combination of class attendance, preparation for classes, and completing assignments for your courses."

But for students having trouble balancing work and school, The Castleton Wellness Center can offer help.

"Stress is a big factor of why students come here," says Kimberly Izzo, counselor at the Wellness Center. She said students get stressed about being able to make time for all the things that they need to do, while having time to sleep and eat, of course also leaving time to socialize.

She suggests that students set aside some time for specific things, breaking down their work and making specific times for each assignment.

"Our time gets away from us," she said.

Izzo said that students go to eat and while they are there they see someone in the dining hall. They stop and talk to them and then "a half hour lunch turns into an hour and a half lunch."

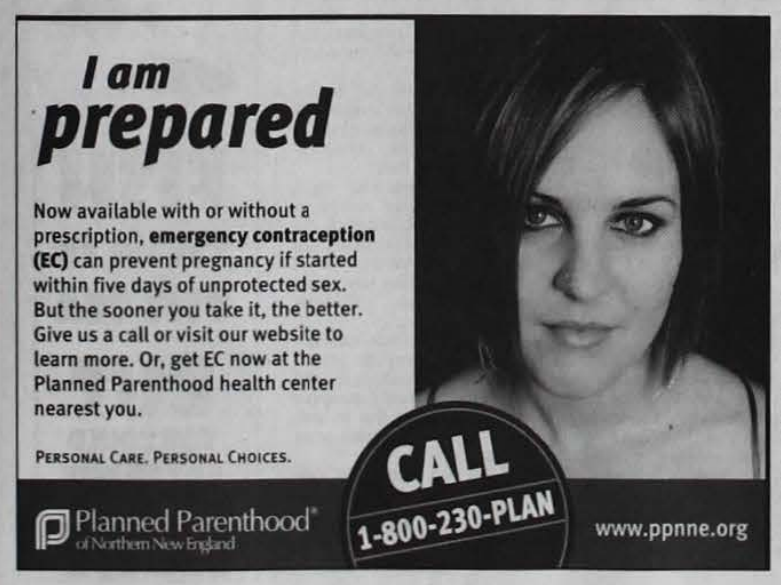
But while a regimented schedule allowing enough time to get all their work done is important, Izzo does advise students to make sure that they make time for themselves.

"If all you're doing is work ... you're gonna get overwhelmed," she says bluntly.

Collecting textbooks

PHOTOS BY JANET GILLETT

Katie Sprowl and Avi Springer (top) pick up the textbooks donated by students for a book drive ran by the community service club. 382 textbooks were collected for The National Center for Family Literacy in the book drive that ran from Dec. 14 until Jan. 22.



Convocation celebrates King and Ghandi

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

With her hands out facing upward as if she was in church, Judith Caruthers, along with the rest of the audience, joined the chorale in singing "We Shall Overcome" during the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

For the third year, spring convocation on Jan. 18 was dedicated to King and, new this year, Mahatma Gandhi instead of school matters.

Esau Pritchett returned to Castleton State College as King to reenact three of King's famous speeches including one praising Gandhi for his peaceful nature amidst violence.

"The world doesn't like people like Mahatma Gandhi," Pritchett said portraying King.

Pritchett stood tall in front of the lectern punctuating the speeches with simple but effective hand gestures.

His voice fell into the silent audience strong and determined as if he were summoning them to join him in the peaceful war in the motivational speeches "I Have a Dream" and "I've Been to the Mountaintop."

"He predicted his own demise. He knew it was coming," Prichett said of "I've Been to the Mountaintop." "It was the most courageous speech, that's why it's my favorite."

King's chosen speeches shadowed ongoing events by pointing out the men who have dealt peacefully in the face of brutality.

"The tension between violence and non-violence is incredibly important right now," said Michael Kiernan, a Middlebury physician who organized the speeches, in his opening speech.

Kiernan also pointed out that these ideas were taught to the very motivated King in the classroom.

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT

Esau Pritchett

"They [convocations] bring us energy to start a new semester," said Carolina Gonzalo, a Spanish teaching assistant from Argentina. "I was impressed because of the message [this one sent]."

Kiernan then performed one of Gandhi's speeches about toleration and respecting others. In the speech, Gandhi admitted that waiting for freedom would be better than spilling blood to gain freedom.

"In this day and time, it seems so amazing [these speeches] are very relevant," Pritchett said. "It seems an x amount of years later the world would be a different place, but it's not."

Punctuating the speeches, the Castleton Colligate Chorale sang in between each oration.

"The amazing words and music worked perfectly together," said Ron Sherwin, who synched up the music and speeches.

Before the celebration began, President Dave Wolk announced:

* the new employees
* Employees who have new titles
* Jane Foley as the employee of the semester
* Stephanie Johnson as the commuter student of the semester

Joanna Doolan

Fresh Perspectives

Guitar Hero 2 : College downfall

I could start this off with the typical, "So we are back at school, we're all adjusting..." kind of stuff.

But we all know that's what just happened.

Which is why I have decided to spare you the boring details of the start of the new semester babble, and just get to something interesting.

I have recently bought into a new and horribly addicting fad.

At first, I shunned this item and figured that all the hype was for nothing.

Then I got sucked in.

One time was all I needed to crave more. No this isn't a drug, but is in fact:

Guitar Hero 2.

The name of a game which is likely to be heard in at least every hallway of each of our residence halls.

To play this musical game, you really need no musical talent whatsoever.

Instead all you need is quick fingers and a good ear.

You tell yourself, "Just one more song," but that's never enough.

Anyone who has played GH2 can recognize the sounds of the game.

A lot of times I'll be walking down the hall and know someone, somewhere, is rocking out their own fantasy rock star career.

One room I notice seems to always be playing when I look in, and this is not an exaggeration.

I am slightly worried about myself, to be quite honest. I bought the game, expecting it to just be this fun, once in a time deal.

Yet, when I listen to songs I wonder how you would play them on Guitar Hero.

Pretty lame?

Or I go to play for a minute longer and I realize I played for half an hour.

I'm in college, I have to focus on more important matters.

Video games have always been highly addictive.

They have kept kids from doing homework and engaging in physical activities for years.

There are many other things out there that have deterred all of us from doing the work at hand.

I always have problems with being distracted.

This semester is going to be packed with work and classes.

I keep reminding myself how crucial staying focused is going to be.

Last semester I did well in all my classes, survived working at Huden and went home on the weekends.

I did better than I expected.

Now that I have lived through one semester I feel like I can do everything.

I want to do as well as I did, but also realize that is highly unlikely.

I hate setting up high expectations.

I used to think everyone else had too high of expectations for me, until I figured out I was setting those expectations.

I know my parents will still be proud if I don't do as well as before or get a lower GPA. But will I still be proud?

Are high expectations better than none?

I don't know how I started talking about Guitar Hero and ended up talking about expectations.

When I was thinking about what I wanted to write, I told myself, "I want to write about GH2 and how it is going to ruin everyone's college careers."

I know that's a slight stretch of the truth, but that's how my brain works.

Now, I can go do homework... or play Guitar Hero.

Hard decision.

Some students fight for campus pub, while another seeks dry dorm

By Dawson Raspuzzi
Spartan Editor

Whether or not alcohol belongs on college campuses is a debatable issue that was raised by Castleton students at each end of the spectrum last semester. Now, these same students are attempting to implement changes that could affect the entire campus.

Michelle Spier, along with a few other students, has played a large role in having the school host events where alcohol is served. Last semester two such events were held in the Alumni Room of Huden Dining Hall. These events had live music and tables set up for students and faculty to interact, have a drink, and relax.

Spier believes that having events like these on campus are important because they get students who are otherwise uninvolved in school functions together and participating.

But Brad Lussier, a non-traditional freshman, believes that instead of promoting alcohol use on campus the college should be discouraging it.

Lussier is trying to persuade Castleton's administration that what they should be doing instead of inviting students to drink in Huden is designating a dry dormitory that is alcohol and drug free. Lussier, knows firsthand about the dangers of drugs and alcohol having fought addiction for 16 years of his life.

Now clean, Lussier wants to help others from falling into the same lifestyle that he once found himself absorbed in.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

A push for alcohol

Spier first got the idea of hosting events on campus that serve alcohol during Phil Lamy's Community in American Society class last semester when the class was asked to come up with ideas for what they wanted to see change on campus.

"My group decided that we'd like to see school events that served alcohol, with the idea that these events may possibly cater to a different group of students than the ones that attend regular school events," Spier said.

The Alumni Room, which holds approximately 100 people and already had a liquor license, was a perfect location for these events, Spier said. The first event, which was an "open mic night," filled the room to capacity.

Later that semester, another event featuring Twiddle and a jazz performance drew about 50 students, according to Spier.

As the semester came to a close and Lamy's class members went their separate ways, Spier wanted to keep pushing for more on-campus events that served alcohol. For the spring semester she has taken on a senior project, which puts her in charge of continuing to organize "pub nights" on campus.

Another part of her senior project is attempting to open a permanent pub on campus.

Both President Dave Wolk and Dean of Students Gregory Stone support the idea of holding events on campus that advocate responsible drinking among students who are of age.

"It's not the college's responsibility or business to run a pub, and we probably don't want to put energy into it, but if students want to then I don't want to stop that," Stone said.

Stone and Wolk each attended one of the "pub nights" last semester and said that overall they thought they went well. The events brought no problems that either of them are aware of and public safety did not run in to any trouble stemming from them either.

But Lussier is one student who feels strongly against college events serving alcohol. He said that the last "pub night" "turned the entire campus into a huge frat party."

Spier believes that if Castleton would install a permanent pub in Huden then events would not be looked at as "drinking events" but instead just events where people can hang out and have a drink if they desire. She also believes that it would provide a safe and monitored environment where students could drink alcohol without having to travel far.

Of course there are many aspects to be considered, Spier admitted, including staffing these events, which, because they take place in Huden, is the responsibility of ARAMARK.

Before the process for a permanent pub on campus begins, an open forum will be held for anyone interested in discussing their feelings about drinking, the effects a pub on campus would have, and other related topics. The forum is expected to take place at some point in February or early March, according to Spier.

The liquor license was recently changed in Huden so that it now covers the entire building, said Food Service Director Pete Marritt. With this change there is a possibility that the next "pub night" scheduled for Feb. 2 will take place in the café, which would hold more people.

The event is scheduled as an "open mic night" and is offered to all students 18 and older floor, is something that other Vermont state schools have experimented with. Johnson State has a dry dorm, which from what Stone has heard, has worked relatively well.

Lyndon State has "substance free lifestyle" housing said the school's Director of Student Life, Jonathan Davis, but there is not a high enough demand to make an entire dry building.

Lussier started his push for change by bringing his concerns to Stone, then the student senate, and most recently to Wolk before winter break began.

"It's really not about me, but instead it's to help other students. It's important to me because I understand the ramifications of addiction," Lussier said.

Wolk said that he would support creating a dry dormitory if it would be beneficial to the school and students.

But the issue is a much more complicated one than it appears at first glance, according to Stone.

"We are always open to the idea of a dry dorm here, but there are a lot of logistical matters that would have to be figured out before we could put it to action," he said.

The biggest concern that Stone sees about designating a dormitory to be alcohol and drug free is whether there would be enough students on campus who would want to live in it. Stone has doubts that an entire building could be filled, or even an entire floor.

Another difficulty that Stone sees is the complication of how to police the dorm to make sure alcohol and drug restrictions are not being violated. There is also the problem of deciding which dorm would be made the dry one without upsetting anyone.

Some students may sign up to live in the dry dorm for the wrong reasons, Stone added

Although Stone said he isn't sure if a dry dorm would work at Castleton, he said, "I love that (Lussier) has brought this question up for the community to talk about and we'll see what happens with it."

Wolk has a similar view on the situation, saying "If there was a group of students who wanted to live in a dry dorm it would be fine with me."

The next step toward a dry dorm is holding an open forum for students and faculty to share their opinions on the prospect of a dry dorm on campus.

A date for the forum has not been scheduled yet, but one is expected to take place in February or early March.

If administration does not proceed to implement a dry dorm, Lussier said he will take the issue to the chancellor for something to be changed.

"I won't fail," he said.

A push against alcohol

Lussier, who volunteers at the Rutland Prevention Coalition, lived in Ellis Hall last semester where he figured that alcohol wouldn't be a common sight considering the percentage of students in Ellis were freshmen under the age of 21.

He was mistaken.

Lussier recalled seeing no regulations to students bringing alcohol and other drugs into the building while he lived there.

Lussier believes that many students who don't want to drink or do drugs fall into a trap of peer pressure when they come to college.

"Eighteen-year-old kids come to college and feel that they need to fit in by getting drunk and high because that seems to be the social norm to come to college and drink," Lussier said.

He believes that if Castleton had a dry dormitory it would save a lot of students from these pressures because they would be living with other students who have made a choice not to drink and take drugs.

Lussier's proposal for a dry dormitory, or at very least a dry

Faculty Forum

This is the first of what we hope can be a self-sustaining column written by faculty and administrators about their experiences here at Castleton. To submit a column, send it to thespartan@castleton.edu.

David Blow

Faculty Column

I received a wedding invitation in the mail the other day, something that usually makes me cringe.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy a good wedding bash as much as the next guy, but sometimes you get invited to wedding from the long-lost second cousin or the second marriage of your great uncle that you dread both going to and buying a gift for.

But this was different.

This invitation came from Tom Casale, a student I taught as a part-timer in only my second class ever.

I really enjoyed having Tom in class, and spoke to him frequently about sports and journalism before and after class.

His college career came to a close in 2005 and I tried hard, but without success to land him a local reporting job - lucky for him.

Tom's persistence and drive led him to flood NFL teams and newspapers from around the country with his resume - and led to a call back from the New England Patriots.

A staff member from the Patriots called me asking about Tom, and I told them the truth - that he was hard-working, a talented writer and a genuinely likeable guy.

They hired him as a team writer, and I was so proud. Proud to have taught him and in some small way helped him land his dream job.

And it was Tom who made me realize why I traded in the newsroom for the classroom.

As a reporter and editor, you live for the story.

As a reporter, it's the thrill of the chase of a great story - whether it's uncovering wrongdoing by government or writing a heartfelt story about the goodwill a neighborhood can bestow on a dying cancer victim.

As an editor, you live vicariously through the reporters, hoping they'll ask you to help them craft the perfect story.

Tom helped me realize that as a professor, the reward is seeing your students prosper and make a contribution to the world and be happy in life after college. And when they choose the field you love and keep in touch and include you in life decisions, it's all the better.

As a professor, it's almost like your family keeps growing - even though my wife and I are SO not having any more babies.

I hope to have many more of these proud moments as my career ages - and I can't wait for this wedding, even though the only people I'll probably know are my wife and Tom.

Evaluations are vital, but may be changing

By Kennth Tyler
Spartan Staff

Those manila envelopes that contain the student teacher evaluations are a fixture at Castleton State College. The form asks students to grade professors in several different areas.

They are filled out for every class. They are filled out for every teacher. They are filled out every semester. And they are very, very redundant. But just how important are they?

"I think they are very important," Tersh Palmer, a member of the Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure committee, and English professor, said about the forms.

Palmer is serving his second semester on the RPT committee, which reviews all the evaluations and submits recommendations for reappointment and tenure to the deans.

But it's not only the faculty and administration that find the evaluations important. Students share that sentiment as well.

"It is really important that we do these teacher evaluations, because I've heard that they are really read and we do have the power to get a teacher fired if they are a bad teacher," said Victoria Vondle, a theater art major. "Not that I go around writing bad evaluations just to get rid of people ... it is important for the administration to know when we have good teachers because they seem to be harder and harder to find these days."

Which is exactly the point of the teacher evaluations - to better understand the strengths of individual teachers, school officials say.

The evaluations, which are outlined in the teacher contract, are used in the teaching effectiveness portion of the reappointment and tenure process.

Once the evaluation is filled out by the class and delivered to the administration office they sit patiently until the RPT committee reviews them.

Also included in the teaching effectiveness portion of the evaluation are any letters written about the instructor and any observations done by deans or chairpersons.

That information, combined with scholarly and professional activity as well as any service to the college and community, gets reviewed as a whole and a recommendation is sent to the Academic Dean Joseph Mark. Mark then reviews the RPT committee's recommendation, makes his own recommendation and forwards that information on to school President Dave Wolk for a final review.

"We have to take everything into consideration," Mark said. "I think it's a fairly good form, but it probably could be improved."

PHOTO BY MATTHEW SARGENT
The guardian dog of evaluations

Dean Mark hears complaints from faculty about the vagueness of the form and how they would prefer the information to be compiled into a computer program. The program would allow for statistics such as averages and means to be easily accessed.

The administration has taken the complaints from the faculty and students into consideration and has agreed to meet in the spring about potential changes.

The oversight group, as outlined in the teacher agreement, will be made up of administrators, faculty and students to brainstorm possible improvements to the evaluation system.

Regardless of some flaws that may exist with the current evaluation, Mark feels confident that the form serve its purpose and students generally take them seriously.

"I like the scale used to respond," Mark said. "It invites them to give free responses ... most of the responses are positive."

The dean admits that not all are positive, but regardless of the tone they must all be looked at objectively.

"If there is a pattern of criticism that seems specific about certain aspects of the course, that has to be taken seriously," Mark said.

Matt Donelly, a student at CSC, feels that the forms serve as an important aspect of the evaluation process.

"I don't really mind doing them, because I do think that they are influential to both the school board and the teacher," Donelly said, although he admits that he doesn't put much thought into them. "I usually write - word for word - I like them. They are good."

Those who benefit the most from the evaluations are the teachers themselves who get to read anonymous feedback about their teaching.

Dennis Shramek, chair of the English department, enjoys reading his evaluations and thinks that most professors share his opinion.

"I suspect all the faculty reads through the evaluations and the best of the faculty take the comments into consideration," Shramek said.

Shramek remained tight lipped about any comments that have stuck out, but did state that most students are kind with their words.

"Generally they are quite pleasing to read," Shramek said.

Tersh Palmer feels similarly to Shramek about the general theme of the evaluations and recalls that his most memorable evaluation is one that he isn't sure if it's a compliment or an insult.

"I got one from a first year student that said, 'I just can't enjoy a movie without thinking about gender,'" Palmer recalled.

SOUNDING OFF

all your SOUNDINGS information IN ONE SPOT

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Was it a success? A flop? Please contact a Soundings instructor or Spartan advisor David Blow to share your thoughts.

EVENT COUNTDOWN

18 LEFT

QUOTABLE LINES:

Convocation: Let Freedom Ring!
Question: What has this event inspired you to do?

"This event has inspired me to look beyond race, religion, and even gender. There is no reason to divide ourselves from other people for differences uncontrollable by those who embody them. We are all people, no matter what our differences, and as different as we all are, we are still one and the same."
-Nicholas Affinito

"Today's event has inspired me to be more aware of how people treat each other and to do something about it when someone is not being treated right."
-Erika Tintle

"I find the life of Dr. MLK, Jr. to be more inspirational than any other life that has been. His ideology and actions drive me to want to be a better human being. I am inspired to help my community and fellow human, and change my own ways to become more peaceful and less filled with hate."
-Justin Schwartz

"Injustices towards people go on every day. This event has inspired me to make myself more aware of these injustices. If more people are aware of these wrongdoings, then action can be taken to prevent them."
- Eric Hall

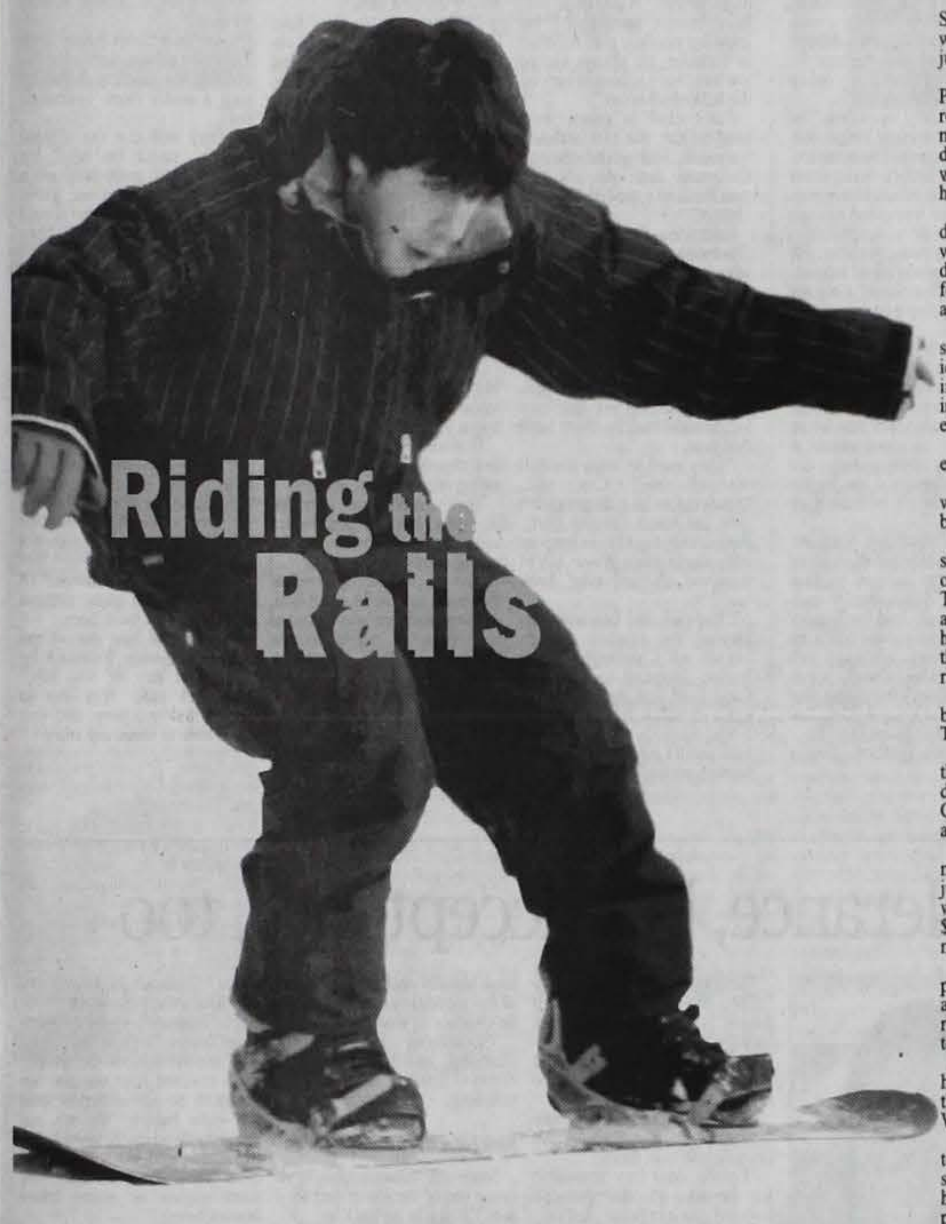
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE CANNOT QUOTE YOU UNLESS YOU CHECK THE BOX AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR SOUNDINGS' CARD THAT GRANTS US PERMISSION.

COMING UP NEXT:

February 8th, 12:30 p.m. FAC Casella Theatre: Groovelily Master Class--Join this multi-talented acting and musical troupe as they conduct an informal class on musical theatre. Participants would get themost out of this event if they had an interest in the theatrical or musical arts, but the event is open to students in all majors.

February 8th, 7:00 p.m., FAC Casella Theatre Groovelily--Simon Saltzman of Curtain Up says of this trio, "Their music, sensual, glib, romantic and raucous, delights throughout with its varied and eclectic musical vocabulary traversing rock, blues, Broadway, folk and jazz, even a passing nod to Kurt Weill, but mostly defined by its originality and independence" (March 26, 2006).

February 12, 7:00 p.m., FAC Casella Theatre: Disappearances and discussion with Jay Craven about his film--If you are interested in early 20th century Vermont, bootlegging, or film studies, this is an event you should enjoy. Kris Kristofferson stars as Quebec Bill Bonhomme.



Riding the Rails

By Matthew Sargent
Spartan Staff

The hearts of Castleton snowboarders and skiers are filled with hope as now that snow finally is covering campus grounds.

The passionate students where so excited by the early snow late last semester they flocked to their unfinished freestyle park behind Wheeler Hall.

The work-in-progress park was influenced by the Freestyle Club's Heather Slater.

Slater, a perky 20-year-old, from Effort, Pa., got the idea for the small on-campus park in her Community and Society class.

Slater, sitting in her small Babcock Hall room surrounded by magazine cut-outs of some of her favorite snowboarders, (J.P. Walker being her absolute favorite) explained how the class had an assignment to plan a place on campus where students could come together and hang out.

Being the president of the Freestyle Club, Slater couldn't think of anything her fellow students needed more than a place to enjoy and share their passion for the slopes.

She worked with eight other students on the project and the group's first step was to design the park they wanted, and come up with a location.

Once Slater's plans were in place, she set out to make it happen.

She started by going to Physical Plant. She gave the department her plans and as Physical Plant official Rick Wareing put it, "yep the plans sounded good."

Wareing also talked about the plan for a skateboard park in the near future.

"The skateboarders just haven't made up a plan, and that's why their park hasn't happened yet," he said.

"If you show them a good plan, they're more than happy to help out," Slater said. "You can't just say 'I want a park' and expect them to just do it."

Slater didn't just rely on the Physical Plant though, she reached out to get some of the materials herself, and received donated rails from Killington, which are currently on site and have been in use in recent.

The only thing missing is a drop ramp. The drop ramp, which Slater had a hand in designing, is planned to be 8 feet wide by 8 feet tall, and have a 4-foot-long ramp.

An early Thursday night last semester brought the first significant snow fall of about four inches and brought out the impatient riders of all skill levels.

The darkness of night doesn't even stop the riders.

They lined the snowy site with their cars which cast harsh bright lights on the rails.

Without the drop ramp, the students have been relying on one another to get over the rails. They do what Slater described as slingshots, where someone has a person on each arm and they "slingshot them over the rails."

Slater said the park was used by more than 20 people that Thursday night.

"The school doesn't recognize that most of the out-of-state students who attend Castleton State College are here for the skiing and snowboarding," she said.

The day of the first snowfall meant more to the group than just the first sign of winter, for it was also the day they received $500 from the school to get the materials for the drop ramp.

Slater said the materials were purchased at The Home Depot and according to Wareing the ramp was to be built last semester.

"Significant snowfalls would help inspire people to help get the project underway faster," Wareing also stated.

Dan Gardner, area coordinator and snowboarder, thinks the small park is a great idea saying he does realize that a very large percentage of the student body snowboards or skis.

"I think that it's great, cause it's a good opportunity for the Physical Plant to build up a relationship with the students," Gardner said.

The new park isn't just a good thing for the snowboarders and skiers, it's a great example of how things can happen when you just stay motivated and plan well, "someone just needs to take the initiative," Slater said.

Slater's parting words of advice to CSC riders was, "Please respect the park, and don't move equipment around unless you think it will benefit everyone."

PHOTO BY MATTHEW SARGENT

Students try out the new snowboard park out side of Wheeler Hall.

REVIEWS

AUDIO

Ambulia: 'Miles and Complications'

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

Who says you need a state of the art recording facility?

A relatively new local band, Ambulia, has released their debut album 'Miles and Complications.' The band consists of Castleton student Julian Defelice and guitarist Tom Hutner.

Defelice and Hutner first got together in the fall of 2005 when they were members of the band Hot Chokalit. The band's biggest moment could possibly be when they opened for New Jersey band New Blood Revival at a show sponsored by WIUV.

Differences in the band's direction led to Hot Chokalit's demise. A year later Defelice and Hutner re-united to form Ambulia named after a song on Hot Chokalit's album 'Hostile Takeover.'

'Miles and Complications' was produced using Defelice's own home recording studio -- located in his bedroom.

Like most contemporary bands it is hard to slap Ambulia with a label. Ambulia has elements of electronica, hip-hop, industrial rock and metal.

Listening to Defelice sing is very interesting. He has a voice that resembles Nine Inch Nails' front man Trent Reznor. Defelice also does some amazing guitar and synthesizer work on the album.

Hutner brings his metal and hardcore influences into his guitar playing, which gives Ambulia its edge. Hutner also makes freestyle rap seem like a cakewalk when he spits his lyrics:

"December 12th 2021, thousands of puzzle pieces re-arranged into one, the path least traveled all littered with gravel, was taken with ease expectations of a judge's gavel, the rollercoaster turned introvert to coaster, couldn't find my holster, eyes shined like diamonds, distracting me from violence, who knew I would be finding this looking for guidance down the barrel of a .45."

Chances are you've never heard Ambulia, but their sound resembles many bands. The instrumentals at times resemble The Mars Volta, The Prize Fighter and System of a Down. Defelice and Hutner's vocals sound like Reznor meets the X-ecutioners.

And they structured the album like the rock band Coheed and Cambria with the last song being broken into three separate songs.

The songs I've most enjoyed listening to are 'Homecoming King,' 'The Only Solution,' 'Delilah Complex,' and 'Scaling the Tower III: December, 12, 2021.'

For a copy of the album contact Julian.Defelice@castleton.edu

VIDEO

8 1/2: Dream or Reality?

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

Not wanting to see any Hollywood remakes or the same movie with just a different title, I went over to the video store and walked straight over to the foreign section. I am usually not disappointed by the selection here since the style of filmmaking in other countries is quite different.

For example, look at the Indian film industry, more specifically "Bollywood". In a typical Bollywood movie there is at least one song and dance scene and the stories always revolve around a complex plot of love and relationships. In Hollywood cinema you almost never see musicals any more.

I'm not saying that one is better than the other-- I'm just saying there's more out there than what's playing in your local movie theater. I went for the Italian films mainly because there was one movie I wanted to particularly see: 8 1/2. It's theme of mixing dreams with reality intrigued me since I often confuse reality with my dreams.

8 1/2 is a film about a director, Guido Anselmi, who is at the peak of his career and is trying to make another great movie. He starts to become delusional and confuses himself (and the audience) with reality and the dreamscape.

At first the dreams are so bizarre that they are obviously dreams. As the movie moves along you can't tell if he's dreaming or not since the plot moves right with the dreams. This was a great way to feel the confusion of the main character especially when the scenes are repeated so either one could be a dream or the reality. The key to keeping the audience thinking and trying to figure out which scenes are real and which are dreams is to keep the dreams from getting to bizarre.

The part of the movie, which I didn't really like was the length. 8 1/2 could have been a little shorter.

At around 1hr 45min I was starting to think, ok is this over yet? The movie wasn't boring, it just could have had a better momentum through out if it was shorter.

All in all this is certainly a must see movie for anyone that can stand a foreign film. The plot definitely has some twist and turns to get you engaged and the dreams are some times so bizarre.

If you are looking for something different and entertaining than check out 8 1/2, it will not leave your mind for at least a couple of days.

PHOTO BY BRADFORD WATERHOUSE

Protestors hold up signs at Washington D.C's peace march last weekend.

Protest peaceful, little action

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

Drugs, depravity and debauchery - sin in spades.

This was Washington, D.C. in the psychedelic 60's.

Woodstock, Vietnam, Dylan and drugs helped define a strange time and place, while also laying down the foundation for future legions of protestors to follow.

Even now, some forty plus years later, a new generation of protesters clings to that image, in hopes that they too may also leave their own set of footprints in the sand.

Anyone who came to the nation's capitol last Saturday hoping to rekindle the purple haze of 60's lore forgot one thing.

This isn't the 60's.

No one went skinny dipping in the reflecting pool. No one dropped dead on the steps of the Capitol from a heroin overdose. There wasn't even a single incident involving tear gas, rubber bullets, or a German Shepherd.

This was Bingo night at the Lion's Club compared to the 60's.It was a balmy 50 something degrees and sunny. The only things hovering around in the sky were the two helicopters that seemed to be keeping a keen eye on the crowd throughout the day.

And speaking of people, there were droves of people - thousands of people. Most of who were generally older than the college student that is likely reading this paper. The protest was generally made up of middle aged Joe Schmoe Americans and various war Veterans.

Actors like Sean Penn and Tim Robbins also made appearances as well, but felt about as out of place as a McDonalds in Uganda.

Apparently there were some pro war, anti protesting, protestors in attendance as well. Though rumor has it that their number would have only been large enough to fill a few booths at the local Denny's.

Most people walked around the area waving their homemade signs that read family friendly slogans like "No War for Oil." Others featured slightly more creative lines like "Impeach the Son of a Bush!" or "Bombing for Peace is like F***ing for Virginity."

Others chose a more dramatic way to get their point across.

Musician Greg Stewart came to the protest decked out in camouflage and gore, with faux bullet wounds in his forehead, half of his throat torn to hamburger shreds, and the words "Bush Lied" spelled out in fake blood across his heart.

Someone dressed in a Dick Cheney mask walked around and took pictures with people, as he clung to his "Halliburton" briefcase overflowing with money. Others felt the addition of devil horns to a George W. Bush mask was also key when making a statement.

But generally speaking, the crowd was very low key on theatrics. Most people were entirely satisfied simply being there with a sign in hand. Being passively active was good enough for them.

Everyone was waiting for something powerful to happen, something that would alter the course of history forever- a spark.

But it never came.

Instead, everything went off like a peaceful protest should, with lots and lots of talk and very little action. But one has to wonder if it made any impact at all, as the newspapers are already moving on to bigger and better things to base their stories on.

Like the New York Yankees, the whole thing looked exciting on paper, but seemed to lack any sort of drive when it mattered the most. And by Sunday morning, most people woke up realizing that nothing had changed, and had already begun to forget about everything that happened just a day before. Just another protest in another city.

This is not Vietnam- this is not the 60's.

Beware of the Ides of March

The following story was written by Anthony Trombetta "Tromsie," for a Feature Writing assignment on dramatic storytelling.

Shakespeare urged people to beware the Ides of March. On the 15th day of the third month of the year something quite tragic will likely occur.

Evan Chadwick, a 24- year-old former student at Elon University in Burlington, North Carolina, recalls the 14th day of March 2003 as the most enjoyable and exciting of his young life.

At 10 a.m. that morning the University of Vermont men's basketball team represented the home state of Chadwick and his roommate in the championship game of the America East Conference.

"He and I were so excited that we didn't hardly sleep the night before," Chadwick said in a recent interview. "We grew up playing golf together in Vermont. He always kicked my butt, but I schooled him on the basketball court."

Fully clad in green from head to toe, the two watched Vermont win over Boston University and earn it's first ever birth into the NCAA tournament.

Following the huge victory, Chadwick and his roommate, who he and all of his friends referred to as Tromsie, began the celebration of a lifetime. Their six suitemates witnessed it all day and night.

Jamie Cox, a biology major from Virginia, recalls his general impression of the two Vermonters that he lived with that year.

"They used to tease the hell out of me," Cox said. "Studying to be a doctor didn't give me much time to party. But nobody could ever keep up with those two. When UVM won we all just said, 'look out.'"

Chadwick and Tromsie, possessing the expired driver's license of Chadwick's older brother, stormed to the local Food Lion and purchased two cases of Miller High Life.

The case they split from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. would not be enough on this day.

By the time the clock struck midnight on March 15 the two cases had been shrunken down to empty aluminum containers that could be redeemed back in Vermont for a nickel each.

Elliott Brady, a dear friend of both Chadwick and Tromsie, recalls joining the two at around 1 that morning.

"They were absolutely annihilated when I got there," Brady said. "It took two of us to get Evan into his bed. Tromsie was in the other room playing X-Box."

"Then I was outside smoking a cigarette and Tromsie stumbled out. He sat on the railing with his smoke and I tried to tell him that maybe that wasn't the best idea."

They were on the third floor landing and Tromsie was sitting with his back hanging over the second floor landing. There were six other students there to witness the horror that would follow.

Chadwick was passed out in the suite.

"I woke up to horrifying screams," Chadwick said. "I jumped up and ran outside. It was the most scared I've ever been in my entire life. I thought he was dead."

Cox, as well as the other 60 or so residents of Barney Hall, was awakened as well.

"We immediately called 911," Cox said. "There was blood everywhere. I'll never forget it as long as I live."

Tromsie had fallen 25 feet and smashed his skull on the unforgiving cement landing.

The ambulance arrived promptly, but the paramedics had little hope for saving the young man's life.

Due to inclement weather they were unable to airlift him, so the ambulance was forced to race him 35 miles to the Chapel Hill University Hospital.

His parents' phone rang that morning at 5 o'clock.

His mother knew instantly that something was terribly wrong. They immediately got on a flight to North Carolina after being told by doctors that there was less than a 10 percent chance of them ever seeing their first-born alive again.

They arrived at the hospital three hours later, and were met by a friend from Vermont that they had contacted before their flight.

Judy Colomb was in Chapel Hill visiting her daughter Meghan.

She received a call from his parents right after they received word of what had happened.

"I was at the hospital in 10 minutes," Colomb said. "He was in a coma. He fractured his skull in two places, had a severe concussion, and lost almost half of his blood from the five inch laceration on the back of his head."

Colomb remarked at how amazed and touched she was by the massive amount of Elon students that had gathered at the hospital at such an early hour.

"It was incredible," she said. "There must have been at least 40 kids."

Only two short hours after Tromsie's parents arrived at his bedside the doctors began to sing a much more optimistic tune.

"They said that the alcohol actually saved his life," his mother said with half of a smile, and a piercing glare. "However, I doubt he would have fallen had he not been drunk."

She tries to laugh.

The next day, wrapped like a mummy from the eyebrows up and equipped with an Office Depot sized supply of staples in the back of his head, Tromsie was speaking, and shortly after he was walking up and down the hallways of the hospital.

Exactly one week after the catastrophic accident he was walking down the fairways of his favorite course in Naples, Florida. Amazingly, he shot a 78 that day.

Chadwick, still envious of his buddy's golf game, reflects on what could have been.

"It was the best day of my life immediately followed by the worst day of my life," Chadwick said. "I'm just so happy that he's here, and that he is able to share our story.

Wanted: Not just tolerance, but acceptance, too

: EQUAL
From page 1

ities. And that was before anyone really knew about me!"

Lesley Hubbard, a sophomore with a major in social work, recalls how she once had a knife pulled on her one night while walking around her Massachusetts hometown.

Hubbard said she had no idea who the man was or how he even knew that she was gay.

"The amount of hatred this man had in him was terrifying," said Hubbard, who describes herself as stereotypically "looking like a lesbian."

"He called me a dyke and said if I ever came near his girl he'd slice my neck open.

"I had no clue who this man was or how he even knew that I was gay. He just assumed that I was a lesbian and because of that I was going to hit on his wife," she said.

Fletcher again reflected back on the intolerance of yesteryear.

"People assumed so much back then and didn't accept anything that was even remotely different. It was almost like they thought you could "catch" gay," Fletcher explained. "Like if I sat in your chair and then you sat in it, you would be gay. It obviously doesn't work that way and I think people are finally starting to see that."

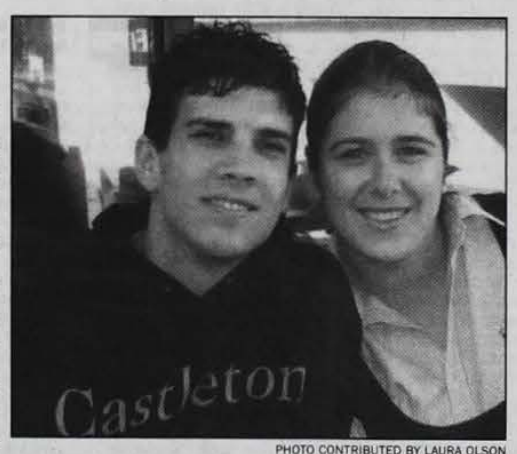


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LAURA OLSON

Ray Boule and Laura Olson

Coming out

Olson, who was raised in a strict Christian home and was made to believe that "people like her were going to hell," has not come out to her parents yet. She refers to this as the "daunting task" that she's currently facing.

Boule was 16 and living in a very small town when he decided to come out at a group event that he attended every week.

"Within the five minute drive back to my house," Boule said, "some of my family members had already heard what had happened. It spread like wildfire!"

Fletcher recalled being scared when she was coming out because of what that meant for her in society, as well as in her own family.

Boule explained that he doesn't need all the legislation to be comfortable or to accept himself as being gay, but he does feel the importance of having an equal and fair society, one in which you are not judged based on your sexuality, which he describes as "something that is inherent as your skin color and not something you chose."

Boule, who is now "100 percent out and fully comfortable," went to his high school's junior prom with his first boyfriend and was symbolized as the only gay person in his high school, and felt as if he was looked upon as a "science experiment."

"The most difficult thing for me was not being scared about it all," Boule said. "I had always been teased and at certain points I had had my life threatened so obviously in coming out I was very apprehensive as to the actions certain individuals would take."

But all in all, he recalled coming out as "not all that bad for him," even though he was initially frightened at the idea.

"Anybody who really knew me already kind of knew anyways," said Boule, who describes himself as a "more feminine gay male." "And I actually remember my guardians literally saying "Duh."

Olson, who feels that based on society's stereotypes, her appearance doesn't automatically reflect that she's a lesbian, plans to tell her parents over February break. This is still "tentatively the plan," but she says as the date gets closer, the more nervous and doubtful she gets.

"I used to feel like I would never tell them if I didn't have to, and now I feel like if I don't tell them, I'm going to explode," Olson said.

Hubbard is "completely out and open about her sexual orientation" and came out when she was 14 and a freshman in high school. She recalls that she faced a lot of hatred, but with that she also knew that her friends that stuck with her were true friends.

"I have no issues telling people that I am a lesbian," Hubbard said. "However, it usually isn't the first thing I tell people."

Hubbard would rather people get to know her for who she is rather than just labeling her.

"Unfortunately," she said, "When the first thing you tell people is that you're gay that's usually what will stick out in their mind as who you are. I'd rather them see me as a whole rather than one part of me."

Olson says that when people find out she is a lesbian, it's because she tells them.

"I never omit [my sexuality] for the sake of other people's comfort or potential discomfort," Olson said. "If I meet a straight female who is talking about her boyfriend or ex-boyfriend, I feel like I have just as much of a right to talk about my girlfriend or ex-girlfriend."

Hubbard stressed that being gay does have a huge impact on who she is, but it isn't all that she is.

"I want people to understand that we love the same as everybody else and feel the same as everyone else," Hubbard said. "I also want people to understand that the community isn't looking for just tolerance, we are looking for acceptance.

"I look forward to the day where I can proudly hold my wife's hand as we walk down the street, and no one will take a second look or make a comment. I want to be able to not have to explain to everyone who she is to me. I know it is a long way off, but we'll get there-- someday"

Meridith Fletcher

Hubbard, who is Catholic, would love to get married in a church someday. But she feels passing gay marriage has nothing to do with religion.

"It has everything to do with the rights and equality," she said.

Boule thinks that with gay marriage comes the "religious debate," yet he said he knows three Christian pastors who have already obliged to perform at his wedding ceremony when he chooses to wed.

"Something is obviously changing, and if not, there is always Spain," Boule says, laughing.

Now (and the future)

Same-sex relationships have come out of the closet and they aren't going to go back in.

In 1990, the U.S. Census Bureau reported 145,130 total gay and lesbian families: 81,343 male, and 63,787 female. The 2000 census numbers represent a 314 percent increase, yet The Human Rights Campaign estimates that the 2000 U.S. Census count of gay and lesbian families could be under-counted by as much as 62 percent.

Currently, Massachusetts is the only state that issues gay marriage licenses. Civil unions are issued in Vermont and Connecticut, but just three other states and D.C. have spouse-like privileges for unmarried couples.

Gay rights have gotten better but they have a long way to go.

Fletcher believes the real fight only started five or six years ago.

"Before civil unions came to be, there were a lot of people here in Vermont that were afraid that we were going to be taking over the state if we got any rights," Fletcher said, explaining how some people put "Take Back Vermont" signs on their front lawns. "I think that since civil unions came to be, people have realized that we are not going to be any different than we were before. We are not going to flood every town holding hands and kissing in their front yard. We just want the same rights as every other human being."

Hubbard thinks it's going to keep getting better, but homophobia will remain in small parts.

"As long as racism has been looked down on racists are still out there," she said.

Olson thinks that being GLBT is more accepted than it was five years ago, because people are becoming more familiar with the community and realizing that "we are normal people just like them."

"The fight for civil rights takes time," said Fletcher, who believes gay marriage will someday be legal. "Look at women's rights and the rights African Americans had to fight for. They won their rights and we will too. People will come to realize that we are not out to get them."

Boule echoes Fletcher's opinion.

"We can only be so ignorant for so long," he said. "We'll crack eventually."

"We are not monsters. We are simply people," Fletcher said. "Just like everyone else."

"We are not asking for special rights, we are asking for equal rights," Olson said.

Fletcher can even envision the world she believes we'll eventually live in.

"I look forward to the day where I can proudly hold my wife's hand as we walk down the street, and no one will take a second look or make a comment," she said.

"I want to be able to not have to explain to everyone who she is to me. I know it is a long way off, but we'll get there-- someday."

Q: What are your thoughts about this year's "winter"?

Jennifer Manning-
"I'm glad the snow held out for so long, but I don't want it to last until April slash May."

Erik K. Ellis-

"I think this season stinks, but I'll take any snow I can get."

Chester F. Cohen-

"It's a delightful warm winter, I can't wait for spring."

Kyle Faulkner-

"Malarkey."

Nick Hooker-
"It's cold and my building doesn't have enough heat and I'm too poor to afford a snowboard."

Free open lunches with CSC community in mind

By Ariel Delaney
Spartan Staff

New public safety director Bob Godlewski is hosting open lunches with the hope of improving the Castleton community.

Godlewski said that he knows this will be a challenge, because most students think "that we're out to get them." But he said he wishes to work with them to create a safer community and feels that students are more likely to talk in an informal environment.

"My goal is to create an atmosphere where students will find me not only as the director, but as a friend," said Godlewski.

PHOTO BY ARIEL DELANEY
Bob Godlewski

The idea of having open lunches came to Godlewski as he thought of creating a community watch program where students and others can call in if they see any suspicious activity.

Even though this already happens, Godlewski said that the majority of crimes happen when they (Public safety) turn their backs, especially vandalism, the number one problem at Castleton.

The director also called the program a way to get "concerned students involved" so when they, "see something they let us know."

"Our job is to keep this campus safe and secure," said Godlewski, emphasizing that the community has to work together for Public Safety to be successful.

"In a 2,000-plus-person community I know I' m not going to get everyone, sure," Godlewski said emphatically, "but I want to get as close as possible."

'Lunch with the P.S director' will take place in the Alumni Room in Huden Dining Hall on the dates below.

The meal is open to everyone on campus and is covered for those who do not have meal plans.

Lunch with P.S. director

Where:	Why:
Alumni Room in Huden Dining Hall	To voice concerns about safety issues
When:	
January Tuesday 30, 2007; 12-1pm	March Tuesday 13, 2007; 12-1pm
February Tuesday 27, 2007; 12-1pm	April Tuesday 10, 2007; 12-1pm

Finding purpose in college: A journey of meaning making

Dr. Andrea Silva McManus
Class of 1986

I chose this title for my alumni profile because this was not what my undergraduate experience was about. I did well academically, socially and left Castleton with full scholarship offers to a number of prestigious universities.

I had training to work in the field of social work, but no desire to do so. I had no meaning or purpose to drive my life. In retrospect, I wish there had been more opportunities to make meaning. This is not a criticism of Castleton, more of the time. The era.

If developing meaning and purpose was part of the mission, it was never articulated to me in that way. So, as an alumnus, I want to say a few things.

Yes, college is about preparing you for a career, but it should be about so much more. Growing up in a working class blue collar family as a first generation college student there was no other reason to go to college. It was to make sure you got a good job later in life. In the eyes of my relatives, there was no other reason to go to college.

But college should be a time we develop a life plan for ourselves where we examine beliefs and what's important to us. It is also a place where we should be encouraged to explore spirituality whether we are atheists or devout believers in a God or Gods.

As an undergraduate in the early "go-go 80's," goals were materialistic. What seemed to be important was getting an MBA, a condo, BMW, expense account and frequent flyer miles so one could jet set around the globe.

Two decades later today's undergraduates see the emptiness in this lifestyle and are demanding more. There has been a growing push for opportunities to explore ones spirituality, which is a different thing than faith. There is also recognition of a quarter life crisis, detailed by Alexandra Robbins and Abby Winter in the national best seller "Quarterlife Crisis: The Unique Challenges of Life in Your Twenties."

College is also a place where we need to learn to be cosmopolitan global citizens. We need to learn to think critically, reflectively and analytically.

The post Sept. 11 world is a very different place than the world I graduated into. No longer can anyone afford to be religiously illiterate. To be a globally educated citizen we must understand the major narratives of all the worlds' religions and how to discuss hot contentious topics if we are to live in a peaceable world.

College should be and needs to be a period of time where you learn this information and these skills.

At 42, I believe strongly that we each need a philosophy of meaning to drive our lives. As an undergraduate, I never planned on becoming an educational philosopher, but that is what I've come to be.

A philosopher, a teacher, a lover of wisdom, teaching and students, I followed my bliss and couldn't be happier. I gave up income, prestige and status. None of that matters to me because at heart, I know who I am and what my purpose in life is. It is to teach and help students develop their own meaning.

President Wolk often describes the College as "The Small College with a Big Heart." These are the words I spoke to him when we met prior to his departure from the Vermont Department of Education for Castleton.

He is a wonderful educational leader and apparently very happy at Castleton. This is easy to understand.

Castleton is like a family you become part of that you never leave.

As an undergraduate I received from my professors, students affairs staff and friends what my family wasn't able to give me, a sense of belonging while being the right place for me at that stage of my intellectual development.

So while you enjoy all the wonderful things about Castleton, I challenge and urge members of the college community to explore how opportunities for meaning making, spiritual growth and discussing contentious subjects can be taught in an interdisciplinary manner across curriculum, student services and co-educational and extra curricular activities.

I believe everyone is going to need these skills.

I wish you well on your journey and would welcome email from anyone that wishes to contact me regarding this profile at amcmanus@uvm.edu.

CAs are just misunderstood

By Deva Stevens
Spartan Contributor

Authority is something people will often fear, be intimidated by or dislike. It is fair to say that most people, college students in particular, hate authority, or anything resembling it.

This authority can be anything from parents to police officers, and even community advisors (CAs). CAs automatically get a bad reputation before the school year even starts, and before the residents get to know them.

This reputation and assumption is based on a few reasons, all of which are unfair to the C.A. These reasons include misunderstanding the job, the responsibility, and the reward.

I have been a C.A since the fall of 2005. I'm writing this for the CAs to the residents who misunderstand us. We're not all bad and with a little understanding that's easy to see. I understand what it is like to be a freshman in college, to experience life for the first time without parents. All of a sudden there is no one telling you when to go to bed, or to make sure that your homework is done.

Freedom is something that is fascinating and frightening all at the same time. College is that crucial step between adolescence and complete independence. It is another step in the process of becoming an adult. While freedom and independence seem great at first experience, it is very important to remember that responsibility comes with both of them.

The position of a community advisor or more commonly known as a resident assistant (R.A.) is a position that is completely structured around other people. Here at Castleton there are four CAs to a residence, typically one or two per floor. Residents get to know these people throughout the year and hopefully build friendships. Others, however, tend to hold a grudge against any sort of authority, and this includes CAs. It is not uncommon to walk by a group of students and hear someone complaining about their C.A; they did something wrong … or they didn't do anything at all.

Residents and other members of the campus community misunderstand the CAs because they do not fully understand what exactly the job entails. Yes, they do have access to a master key and they can let you into your room when you lock yourself out. Yes, they do sometimes have to document incidents of underage or excessive drinking, using illegal drugs and smoking in the dorms. The goal of the community advisors and residence life in general is to build community. Community is defined as a safe, courteous environment that promotes intellectual, emotional, social and educational growth during some of the most significant years that a young person can experience.

It is true that to create this sort of community everyone can not do exactly what they want at any time of the day or night. It is also true that above anything else the, the CAs work to keep the residents safe 100% of the time while they are in the dorms.

People are too quick to assume that all the CAs do is let people into their rooms and get them in trouble, but they do much more than that. The CAs are actually here weeks before the school year begins, training for more than 12 hour days.

They are ready for anything, and know how to react in any incident, no matter the severity. They are trained to handle anything from a homesick resident to an alcohol or drug overdose or suicide. The CAs have more responsibility than residents will ever truly know, or appreciate -- until they are the ones who need help.

Most college students have at least one job, usually more. At the end of the night they can go home and relax, not having to think about work. CAs live their jobs, they can't "leave" work for the day and go home, because to them, home is where their job is.

This is often forgotten when residents complain about their C.A. The reality of the situation is that they live their jobs. How many people could do that and keep smiling all of the time?

Compassion and understanding is all that is needed for residents and CAs to live in harmony.

NICE TO MEET YOU

Jean Bushee

Technical assistant

Birthday:
December 30

Hometown:
Brandon, Vermont

Do you enjoy your job:
"I love my job. I love the students. You are like my kids."

How long have you worked at CSC:
"4 years"

What was your dream job as a child:
"I wanted to be a nurse"

Do you enjoy wearing the phone head-set:
"I love the head-set. I even wore it home once."

Coke or Pepsi:
"Pepsi"

How is it possible that you seem to know everyone's names when they come to the Student Support Services:
"Nobody ever remembered me as a child so I try to make people feel special by remembering their names."

Stickered stop signs seen around town

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT
Stickers reading "the war" have been placed on numerous stop signs in the area. This one is located at the end of Missionary Street.

Ski team loses 'Shou' to freak accident

By Matt Linden
Sports Editor

Bruises are scattered about his face and neck. His body moves slowly as he turns to the window to welcome pelts of snow.

While the Castleton skiers continue to dominate competitions each weekend, one of their own is secluded in a hospital bed following a freak accident on the slopes.

Shoichiro Watanabe, a sophomore from Tokyo, Japan, was skiing with the team during a free run in Killington when he slid off the trail and landed in the woods. In serious pain from the fall, he remained stuck in the woods until teammates arrived and helped him

get out.

"I have trouble getting the crash out of my head," he said. "If it wasn't for my teammates helping me out, who knows where I would be right now."

Some of the injuries he suffered from the crash include skull and sinus fractures, facial lacerations and ligament strains in the neck.

The incident left the Spartan skiers and Head Coach Chris Eder worried for Watanabe's well-being.

"It was the scariest eight or nine hours I've had in my eight years," Eder said of the accident. "When I first saw him in the hospital, he only had subtle movements."

Members of the ski team visit Watanabe frequently, and teammate Justin Schwartz keeps him updated on the results of each race.

An ocean away from home, Watanabe is dealing with more than just the challenge of recovering.

Due to the process of rehabilitation, Watanabe has missed the first two weeks of school and is being prevented from what he loves to do - ski. He will remain in the hospital for at least another month after a minor setback, according to Eder.

The various injuries Watanabe sustained will keep him sidelined for the remainder of the ski season, but he is thankful that nothing worse had occurred.

"It is very disappointing, but I am lucky to still have my arms and legs," he said.

Watanabe's injury has affected more than just his team and coach, but also has opposing skiers wishing him the best.

"Other teams have been asking about him," Eder said. "It does not surprise me because Shou is such a nice kid and really cares about people. Now others are starting to return the favor."

His parents recently came all the way from Tokyo to visit him at the hospital, which originally had him very nervous.

"At first, I didn't want my parents to know because it would worry them," Watanabe said. "Coach [Eder] had to convince me to tell them what happened, and they were very anxious to see me."

His lone finish of the year was 24th in the season-opening giant slalom race in Sugarloaf, Maine.

Tony Trombetta
Sports Column

Colts by 13

Peyton Manning is one win away from solidifying his place in the middle of the debate over who is the best quarterback of all-time.

By leading his Indianapolis Colts to a stunning comeback victory over the Patriots, Manning earned himself and his team a date with Da Bears in Super Bowl XLI.

The 18 point turnaround was the largest comeback in Championship game history. And 18 is Manning's number. Weird.

One thing for sure in this match up, Manning's counterpart; Rex GROSSman, will never sniff presence in the debate over best QBs of all-time.

The delusional, over- confident Bears quarterback does, however, have a golden opportunity to overtake Trent Dilfer as the Worst Quarterback to ever win a Super Bowl.

Good luck half pint. If I were you I'd be looking to Steve Spurrier for some "expert" advice ASAP.

May I suggest giving a call to your narcissistic buddy "Ole' Ball Coach" to see if maybe he can help you restore the magic you shared at Florida.

While you're having that discussion, maybe you can share with him your secret to staying in the NFL for more than 2 years sans (French for without sports fans) talent.

It probably has something to do with having a defense that scores more than your offense and a head coach named Lovie.

Try and prove me wrong little fella. Personally, I'm a little shocked you were able to navigate your way through the NFC North.

Not.

I'd equate two games each against the Vikings, Lions, and Packers to an NBA team getting six cracks at the Cal-Tech "men's" basketball team (congratulations by the way to the nerds from Southern California for improbably snapping their improbable 207 game NCAA losing streak).

The debate over who is the best quarterback of all-time is a tricky one.

No other position in team sports is as scrutinized.

No other position carries with it the pressure to win championships and perform in the clutch as NFL quarterback does.

Quarterbacks are remembered for the rings they acquire.

Where would John Elway be in such a conversation had he not won consecutive Super Bowls in his final two seasons?

How does Dan Marino, the most prolific passer of all- time stack up?

Should Manning fail to ever win the big one, he will surely be eternally linked with the likes of Marino.

He would fall in the category of those incapable of being compared with Bart Starr, Johnny Unitas, Joe Montana, and Elway.

Tom Brady has three rings, and while there is no question that Manning is the superior athlete and an all-time stud, Brady has the titles and Manning does not.

That will all change soon.

It is as simple as this: Manning vs. Grossman.

No-brainer. Rex will make the mistakes and Peyton will not.

The Colts defense will do enough. The Bears are not nearly as battle tested as the Colts due to a weak path through the soft NFC.

Yes the Bears have a very good defense, but they are not the Ravens going up against Kerry Collins and the Giants in Super Bowl XXXV.

This is Manning, Harrison, Wayne, Addai and Clark. And don't forget that madman Bob Sanders in the Colts secondary.

He will be a huge difference maker.

Colts by 13.

Men's hockey team nationally ranked

By Shannon Scirl
Spartan Staff

If a turn-around is what the men's ice hockey team was looking for at the beginning of this season, that is exactly what they got.

Before the puck was dropped at beginning of last season, the Castleton State Spartans had recorded a 0-44 record, in two dismal seasons.

In 2005, former head coach Gregg Stone was replaced by Alex Todd and the team picked up its first several wins knocking off Plymouth State University, Franklin Pierce College, Connecticut College, and Western New England College. The squad also picked up several ties giving them an overall record of 4-19-3 and a first round ECAC loss to Babson College

Todd said he felt the team was very competitive last year and anyone who watched hockey should or knows hockey would agree with that.

The Spartans have put a buzz around campus this year after skating to a 13-3-3 record, as well as being ranked 11th nationally.

In the conference the Spartans have a stunning 8-2-3 record. The team has been lead by Brandon Heck who has 12 goals and 15 assists, along side Steve Culbertson who has 6 goals and 6 assists on the season.

"We knew the success would come because we never backed off from the hard work," said Todd.

There is no question that the Spartans have vastly improved but, Todd doesn't credit any of this to luck or something that was owed to them.

"I feel the success of the team this year is a result of the school's commitment to hockey, and the player's commitment to hard work as both students and athletes, said Todd, who is in his second year as the Spartans head coach.

The Rutland Field house is filled to capacity every home game with students, teachers, parents and Rutland locals who have come out of the woodwork to see this young exciting team that leaped on the hockey map.

"I feel like I am at a Bruins game, because of how loud it is," said Ben Killary as the stands at the field house shook behind him like a twig in a tornado.

Killary, a sophomore at Castleton, and a Rutland native jokingly said he didn't even know this many people lived in Rutland.

The best news for the Spartans may be that the team will only be graduating twoseniors and everyone else will be back for next year's team.

"I can only hope the success from this years team will be instilled into next years team," said Todd.

Currently the Spartans are on an eight-game winning streak that has included wins over teams such as Skidmore, Tufts, Potsdam State, and Amherst.

"All the recent success is because of the hard work and time we have all put into the program," said senior captain Joe Huchko.

The Spartans will look for their first ever ECAC win on Feb. 2 when they take on Southern Maine.

"We just have to take this thing one game at a time," said Huchko.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ENNIS DULING

Evan Romeo (18) skates by Babson defenders in a 5-3 win.

Women's Hockey

By Shannon Scirl
Spartan Staff

It has been a roller coaster season for the women's ice hockey team at Castleton State College.

The team started off as a punching bag for other teams going a dismal 2-10 before the break, but team members seem to have found some smooth sailing going 3-3 since returning to action.

Head coach David Stockdale says, his biggest disappointment is the overall record which is currently 5-13.

Stockdale took the helm in November after former head coach Craig Paiement stepped down because of health related issues.

Paiement had assisted the team to only one victory in five games.

"I think we gave away some games that we shouldn't have, early on in the season, but this was due largely to the fact of how young our team is," Stockdale said.

The Spartans suit up eight freshman, five sophomores, and six juniors.

Katelyn Greene has led the attack for the Spartans netting an impressive 11 goals and dishing out 10 assists.

Standout goalie Vanessa Carter has been superb between the pipes stopping 523 of 575 shots this season in a total of 14 games.

Stockdale says that he is not ready to talk about next year's team yet, even though many are already looking forward to what this young team may put together in the future.

"While I am certainly excited about the future of this program and the positive direction in which we are heading, it is premature to be looking forward to next year or setting expectations for next year's team," Stockdale said last Sunday after a 2-1 loss to Buffalo State.

Even though the Spartans record is far from appealing, they still have an outside shot of making an appearance in the ECAC tournament.

The Spartans will need a big win against Salve Regina on Feb. 17, and help from a couple other teams to grab a spot.

The Women return to action next weekend when they square off against Southern Maine and U-Mass Boston.

"Right now we are focused solely on our next game as we continue to work towards a playoff spot for this season," Stockdale said.

Women's hoops strong, men struggling

By Beth Panzter
Spartan Staff

The Castleton women's basketball team went two-for-two over the weekend to help them break away in the North Atlantic Conference West Division standings.

After winning one game and dropping three during break to start the new year, coach Tim Barrett's team defeated Johnson State 76-51 in the first home game of the new semester.

Hoping to keep the ball rolling, the Spartans sent a conference match up with unbeaten Maine-Farmington into overtime off a 3-pointer by Mary Nienow.

However, Farmington's Kari Simpson's basket with 12 seconds left won the game for the Beavers, 55-54. Castleton had a chance to win it with 1.5 seconds remaining, but a final shot by Jess Banks went in-and-out.

The following day, the squad looked as though they would face another heartbreaker against Thomas. Falling behind early, the Spartans were able to take a 30-23 lead going into halftime.

Thomas continued to battle and with 14 seconds left, Lea McNary gave the Terriers a 60-59 lead. McNary then fouled Banks, who sank both free throws for the win.

Over the weekend, Castleton defeated Mount Ida 84-72 and Lasell 66-61. The Spartans go into Friday's game against Elms ranked first in the NAC West at 8-3 and 11-6 overall.

Men's Basketball

The men's team followed its counterparts with a spring semester home-opener win against Johnson State. The Spartans defeated the Badgers 88-62 for their second North Atlantic Conference win.

Coach Ted Shipley's squad could not continue the momentum and were unable to come back from a halftime score of 28-19 against Maine-Farmington. Castleton fell to the Beavers 68-53.

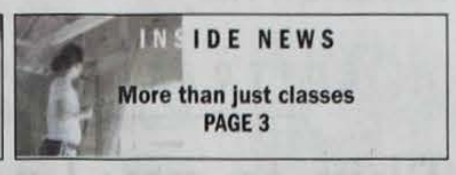
However, the Spartans bounced back with three straight wins. After dominating Thomas, Castleton faced a close battle against Skidmore in non-conference play.

Following 16 lead changes and 15 ties, Castleton broke away in the final two minutes and scored seven unanswered points for a 75-68 victory.

Castleton then defeated Mount Ida 80-64, before suffering an 83-76 loss to Lasell over the weekend to drop to 4-5 in the conference and 8-9 overall. Ranked fourth in the NAC West division, the Spartans will travel to Elms on Friday.

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETTT

Matt Tomaino (44) looks on as a Lasell player drives in for a layup.



The SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, February 14, 2007

SAAB goes for broke to bring in Guster

By Mike Trzclensky
Spartan Staff

If the Student Association Activities Board holds a concert by a well-known band, will students be willing to pay for a ticket?

That is one of the burning questions on the table as planning continues for this year's Spring Weekend.

It has been more than a decade since SAAB put on their last large-scale concert featuring Run-D.M.C.

An attempt was made last year to bring in the popular hip-hop group Nappy Roots, but it never wound up happening due to a combination of SAAB's budget situation and an impossible technical situation.

Last year, Andy McQuerrey was elected Vice President of Activities, the head position on SAAB.

McQuerrey immediately made it his goal to get students more involved in events on campus. Original plans were to bring in Blues Traveler, but after their price climbed too McQuerrey was forced to look elsewhere.

After viewing the results of a survey designed to gauge what kinds of bands students would be interested in going to see, focus was officially changed to Guster and their supporting band The Format.

"Guster has an Environmental Sustainability Protection Initiative that makes them an ever more attractive act to bring to Castleton," said McQuerrey, who also stated that the band, which is from Boston, has a major following in this area.

One potential issue in booking Guster, or any other major band that SAAB considers if things don't work out, is the cost. Guster would cost more than $35,000 to bring in. Also, McQuerrey approximates that it will cost about $8,000 for tech and additional costs to hire security and to rent portable toilets. Castleton will be providing its own lights and sound. The money would come almost completely, if not entirely, from SAAB's current budget.

According to McQuerrey, other bands that were considered such as O.A.R. and Ziggy Marley with Robert Randolph & The Family Band, would cost twice as much and would be out of their price range.

Still if SAAB is going to

Climbing To the top

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

As Queen blared through the speakers and thrummed through the floor, the person belaying stood his ground while the climber reached for the hold just out of his reach.

His face strained in concentration as he tried again, but it remained out of his reach as those who watched yelled "Go Greg," urging him on.

Greg Kallfa missed again and scaled down the wall, only to try again later.

"I'm not even close to done," he said.

Kallfa took first place in the "advanced" and the "dynamic" categories, competing with over 40 competitors on the Feb. 2 rock climbing competition—the first to be hosted by Castleton State College at Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center.

"It's bigger than anything we've ever done since I've been here," Kallfa said of the competition as he sat stretching.

The competition, coordinated by Castleton's rock climbing club president Nick Korda, was attended by several nearby colleges including Landmark and University of Vermont (UVM).

Maureen Wholley said she was competing "just to get out there and let people see it's an awesome sport." Wholley, the one-armed president of the newly formed rock climbing team at UVM tied for first place in the women's "beginning" category.

After starting to work in the rock climbing wall, Korda began to coordinate rock climbing trips including some competitions.

"It's not a big ego fest," Korda said after lowering the "Open" sign made from duct tape in the rock climbing wall window. "It's about proving yourself and having a good time."

Korda climbed down from the top of the lower wall on holds whitened by the residue of

Please see CLIMBING *PAGE 6*

PHOTOS BY JANET GILLETT

Greg Kallfa (above) took first place in men's advanced. Seen at the top of the page, Maureen Wholley, UVM, tied for first place in the womens' beginners competition while Nick Korda (left) took second for mens' intermediate competion.

To celebrate 'Hallmark holiday' - or not

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

By Joanna Doolan
Spartan Staff

Take a dozen roses, a box of chocolates and a generic store bought card. Mix them together with a touch of romance and what do you get?

Saint Valentine's Day.

As the day approaches, lovers all around the world rush to select a perfect present for their sweetheart. Whether already in a serious relationship, or trying to impress a romantic interest, people all over dish out unreasonable amounts of cash to make sure their present is top-notch.

So what's the big deal about Valentine's Day?

"I feel it's a stupid holiday because not everyone can celebrate it," said Jazmin Averbuck, a CSC freshman.

Averbuck, along with many others students, agreed that this "Hallmark holiday" is just a scheme made up by companies to make a ridiculous profit.

Besides that, Valentine's Day reminds those without love just how lonely they are.

Even those who don't hate the holiday mentioned they participated in activities such as an Anti-Valentines Day to make fun of the foolish event.

Michael Hall, a transfer student from Champlain College, seemed very passionate on the subject and when asked, got fired up.

"If guys want to be sweet, they shouldn't wait until Valentine's Day," said Hall.

He believes that a person should constantly do nice things

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EDITORIALS

Skip to my Loo

By Bradford Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

I'd like to dedicate this next little number to the smirking little flirtatious skipper in all of us. She's there, TRUST me, you just ignore her.

I'm coming clean right now: I skip a bunch of classes.

Collective gasp

"Brad, no! You?

Oh, hush. Settle down, all of you. Let me explain.

The word "skip" has terrible connotations for professors, I'm pretty sure. They usually take it as a sort of willful absence to play videogames, do drugs, or practice their bongo-skills (maybe all three?). Or maybe they just think it's lazy.

I skip for all kinds of reasons. Sometimes I've had to work. Trying to set your schedule around a job doesn't always work when people call in sick.

"Oh, what's the Ricky? Can't use the deli-slicer baked out of your skull? It's cool; we'll call that Brad kid in. Rest up."

I also skip if I'm sick. I know a lot of people who'll sit towards the back of the class, hacking away into the back of their buddy's head or writhing about in feverish disarray, eyes half shut, phlegm and spittle flying about the room in an orgy of infection and disease.

And who hasn't had to skip out to get home early for some such thing?

I'm not advocating pointless class skipping. There are people who skip to do 'shrooms or go skiing or sleep in and sure, that's irresponsible (most of the time).

I've been very lucky in my school career to have very understanding teachers who have given me passes when I needed them, and the vast majority of professors here are happy to work with students on absences.

But they almost all also have attendance policies. Attendance policies have always seemed a frivolous thing.

It's akin to those terribly misguided award ceremonies during elementary school where shiny ribbons or plaques were given out to all the kids who had perfect attendance for the year.

Congratulations, you didn't catch the flu this year (or, if you did, what a trooper. Nice job coming in anyway and making half the class lose their chance at the award by spreading it around). An attendance policy in grade school makes sense because no one wants to go to school through junior high.

But we're in college now. We're paying the money, moving away from our homes, choosing careers that we (hopefully) have an interest in and we don't need to be kept track of. We made our own decision.

If I'm paying upwards of $20,000 a year as an out-of-state student to take classes I shouldn't be penalized for skipping one. I'm paying, that's my choice. If I think I'm too sick to go to class, I shouldn't have to worry about how many classes I've skipped. I should lie in bed and relax.

When you take away whole spans of someone's grade (three skips and you're dropped from an A to a B) the grade becomes pointless. It's no longer an accurate representation of a student's level of skill when it comes to that subject. Instead, it becomes an arbitrary letter representing some teacher's opinion of how often her class should be missed.

What about someone who goes to all the tests and aces them, writes all the papers and brilliantly executes every one of them, gets all the assignments done on time and does them better than any one else in the class: The Perfect Student.

But wait.

"What's this on my calendar? Seth missed class five times last month and didn't give me a good reason. Well, see how the bastard likes it when he's dropped down to a 'C'."

If the policy is to keep kids in class, then it's no good. Those who want to skip will skip anyway and the students who are really interested in class will be there every day they can, adding to the class and getting good grades.

Dock a kid for not participating, absolutely. Drop him from the class if he misses consecutive weeks. Best of all, talk to him and find out what's going on and go from there but figure out some other way to evaluate a student apart from absences.

Just get rid of that little sentence on the syllabus that says "Attendance is mandatory…" and assume everyone knows that and evaluate them based on an individual basis.

We're in college. We all know where we should be when class times rolls around.

We also have the ability to decide when we should be somewhere else.

Just don't ask me to come to class if I'm pukin.'

The SPARTAN
CASTLETON STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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YOUR THOUGHTS

Correction to last issue's Writing Standards article

To the Editor:

Our writing standard assess the ability of students who graduate from Castleton to think critically and formulate ideas independently; it does not assess "hand-writing skills." Such skills are useful, but they are not "vital for a college student to master," as your reporter erroneously believes I said in an interview in the last issue of The Spartan ("Writing standards will remain the same," Jan 31, 2007). He simply missed the point.

We ask students to write, without the aid of a grammar or a spell check, so that we can assess how they think and present an argument or choose evidence to bolster a thesis. This ability IS vital, and we assess it in many different forms. If we were interested in assessing hand writing ability alone, we would use workbooks and have students copying letters and words correctly. Currently, the essay is hand written because that is the means that is available to all; when each seat at the college has an attached keyboard, then students can type.

Renny Harrigan
Associate Academic Dean

Representing Castleton to a T? T-Shirts Given Away During Winter Weekend

Winter weekend is usually a time of concerts and events that truly capture the Castleton spirit. I have pride in my school, and it's great when we can all come together in the name of school spirit. However, I feel Winter Weekend '07 didn't quite capture the spirit of Castleton.

At every event I went to, I saw smiling faces sporting a T-shirt with a lovely snowflake on it and "Castleton Winter Weekend 2007" written around it. However, when people turned around, I saw silhouettes of "sexy" women and men with the caption "We're bringing sexy back…. Yeah" on the back.

How exactly does this capture what Castleton, or winter weekend, is about?

As a Women's Studies minor, and member of the Castleton Women's Issues Group, I am deeply offended by this choice in tee shirts. This shouldn't only affect me however, as these beauty and sexuality stereotypes shouldn't be pressed upon anyone.

It is hard enough to live in a society where one particular concept of beauty is shoved down your throat by celebrities and magazines. The fact that the Student Association is further pressing these ideals is ridiculous and completely uncalled for.

I feel the Student Association should rethink what exactly the spirit of Castleton truly is, rather than trying to "bring sexy back."

I came to Castleton because of its truly unique nature of acceptance and equality; let's bring that back.

I wrote this with the support of the Women's Issues Group. To join us please contact Linda Olson at linda.olson@castleton.edu

Jaklyn VanManen

Finally a presidential race to get excited about

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

It's back again — the mud-slinging, the "investigative reports" into the pasts of presidential candidates.

This year, however, threatens something else — an election to actually be excited for.

The question used to be: When will a minority become president? Now the question is: Which minority will be the Democrat presidential candidate?

It seems the Democratic race will be more about race and gender than about political stances as Bill Richardson already has plans to exploit the Hispanic population to win votes.

For years, people have been joking about a female president and Hillary Clinton has decided it is time for one by throwing her name into the race. Her presidential candidate speeches refer to her strengths and political outlook rather than her gender.

The entire circumstance seems to be a ploy for entertainment. What else can you expect from the media that turns Britney's life into a soap opera?

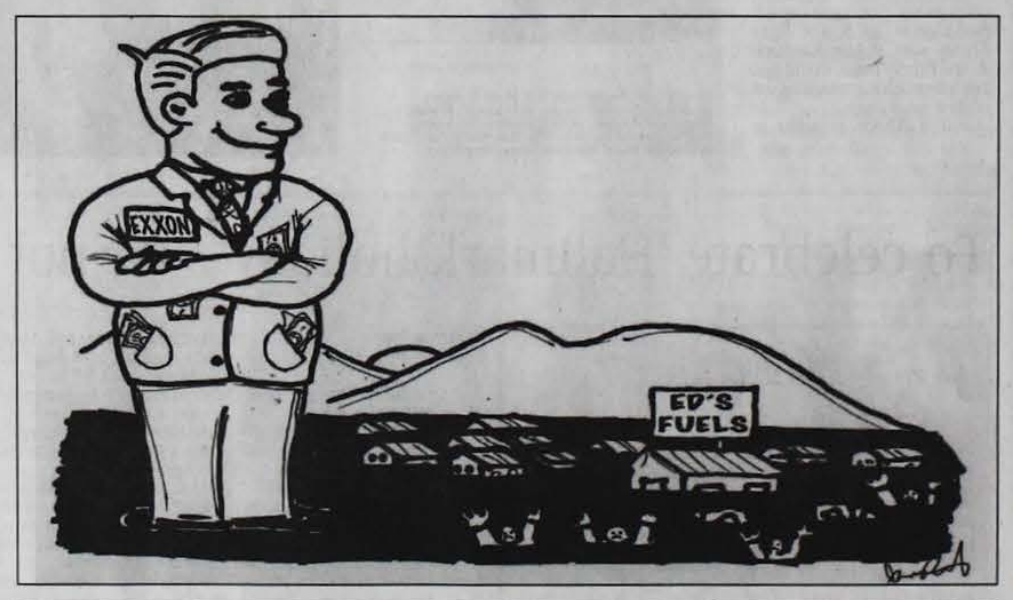
Ploy or not, the general public is going to be watching, and maybe even caring about politics again. And let's hope that there is talk of politics and not just skin color and gender.

It is past time for a minority to take office in the White House and break the monotony of old white men. Each brings a different face, but not much else.

The challenge, however, is getting to members of the public, who insist on not using their brains when voting. I'm still reeling from Bush being re-elected. How can the American public make that big of a mistake twice in a row?

It's surprising that it has taken so long to get some diversity in the run for the White House in a nation that prides itself on variety. Thirty-one flavors of ice cream, anyone?

For the first presidential election I can vote for, I am glad that a variety finally exists for a presidential candidate, though if given a chance, I would still vote for Al Gore.



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More than just classes

College promotes civic engagement – and succeeds at it

By Chris Piechuta
Spartan Contributor

Senior psychology student Jessica Taylor attended a knitting circle at Castleton Community Center for two hours a week for six weeks.

Taylor knit with Castleton residents as part of a health psychology service learning course, just one of the opportunities students have at Castldton State College to make an impact on the community.

Other classes include the education department's Foundations of Education class, which results in the contribution of student's time and talent to six different community agencies.

Social work students helped a developer plan a low income housing project.

And a communication documentary workshop course worked with a social work class to create a 20-minute videotape exploring the lives of the poor in the local area, titled "I'm Still Poor."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY AVI SPRINGER

Kathy McDonald poses with a resident at Misty Heather Morn senior residential facitily in Hydeville.

Finding a direction

If you walk up the stairs in the Coffee Cottage you'll find "The Center," where you can speak with Chrispin White, Jan Rousse or Avi Springer. The Center allows Castleton students to become more active members of their community through the many community service and internship opportunities available, but they offer much more.

Alternative Spring Break promotes service at the regional and national levels through programs that immerse students in different cultures, increase social awareness and promote lifelong social action, Center officials say

America Reads, for instance, allows students to volunteer their time reading in local schools, daycare centers, and libraries. Castleton is also part of the Meals on Wheels program, delivering meals to the elderly homebound residents of Castleton.

Off-Campus Work Study is another option for students. Castleton uses 7% of its federal work-study allocation to employ students in a variety of fields including social services, healthcare, crime prevention, welfare, and literacy training.

Rousse advises the Community Service Club, and is in charge of America Reads and Alternative Spring Break.

"Our students are our future," she said, adjusting the glasses resting atop her short blonde hair. "Part of the educational process is learning about the community around you."

"How do you reach all these people? Through networking. It makes me feel great that I'm doing something for the community."

James McQuerrey

In 2004, Alternative Spring Break students went to Nicaragua and spent their break with Project Chacocente. Project Chacocente moves families from the city dump of Managua, Nicaragua to the clean air and fertile soil of rural Masaya. The following year, they returned. Two graduates went back to Nicaragua and became full-time volunteers.

A smile spread across Rousse's face as she told the story.

She shifted in her seat and the light from her window caught the rhinestones of her Joy pin that was attached to the black collar of her grey fleece jacket.

"You can see how it changes a person," she said.

Rousse glows as she talks about the community service work of Castleton athletes.

Working with the Foundation for Excellent Schools, Castleton athletes mentored fourth graders from Castleton Elementary.

When it started, there were only 40 mentors. Now there are more than 80. These students have made an influence in their community.

"Absenteeism is down at Castleton Elementary," says Rousse.

Steering the effort

James McQuerrey feels that some community service projects don't get enough advertising.

"Unless you see a flier, you don't know it happened," he said.

McQuerrey saw that students who wanted to help didn't know how to get involved and that too many students weren't involved. He also saw that groups weren't communicating with one another.

"A few weeks ago, two different groups had a coat drive," he said.

McQuerrey knows a lot about what is happening on campus as vice president of the Student Association. He is currently working on a forum that will allow greater communication and coordination between clubs, classes, teams, students, and faculty for community service projects.

"How do you reach all these people? Through networking," he said. "It makes me feel great that I'm doing something for the community."

He said that he has three semesters left, laughed and then added "at least three."

McQuerrey hopes that with a combined effort, Castleton will be able to provide a bigger impact on the community and get more students involved.

"If I was able to get 900 people to an event," he laughs, "I'd die a happy man. I want people to get sucked into Castleton like I did."

Lasting impression

Sevice learning and the other community service opportunities can really affect a person. Some students continue their service learning activities even after their class is done.

Jessica Taylor is one of these students.

Taylor still attends the circle every second and fourth Monday of the month.

"I've never really had grandparents. So I like hanging out with the old ladies," said Taylor, as a blush spreads across her cheek.

She giggles and adds, "They're cute. They gossip about one another. I like that. They're like young girls."

Pulitzer winner to speak of award winning editortials

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

In 2000, the Vermont Supreme Court passed a law allowing civil unions.

The gay and lesbian population was celebrating the victory while those opposing were in an uproar.

The battle wasn't over.

In the midst of the controversy, David Moats toured the state delivering speeches about the series of editorials he wrote defending the rights of those seeking civil unions.

Moats will be speaking at the college at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 27 in Herrick Auditorium about the research and writings that led up to his Pulitzer Prize.

"The atmosphere was so tense and heated," Moats said. "It was a great challenge to see through the issue without contributing to the hysteria."

Moats followed the legislatures moves issue step-by-step and responded accordingly with his editorials.

"It was the biggest controversy Vermont has had in years so I paid close attention," Moats said.

"A year later, I won the Pulitzer prize, which thrust me into the spotlight."

Through the debate, Moats became known as a spokesman for the gay/lesbian population. He recounted one day when someone told him that his editorials were the only thing that got her through the day.

"It felt good to see my job had a positive impact," Moats said.

Moats interviewed many homosexual people, delving into the lifestyle he was "not familiar with." He said that after a while, it was hard to see any differences in the lifestyles, though it was hard to get accustomed to talking about personal issues with others.

"For a lot, it was a very scary thing. It made a big difference that someone was on their side," Moats said.

Librarian Sandy Duling and Journalism Professor David Blow joined together to invite Moats through Academic Dean Joe Mark's lecture fund. Duling tries to bring in a Vermont author to the college every year for her library series that in the past featured Tom Wicker and Ron Powers.

"It's not everyday you can invite a Pulitzer Prize winner," she said with a smile.

Live a sustainable life and have fun doing it

JIM MERKEL KICKS OFF NEW SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKER SERIES

By Sarah O'Neill
Spartan Contributor

The Robert T. Stafford Speaker Series on sustainability got off to an excellent start last Monday evening when Jim Merkel, sustainability coordinator at Dartmouth University, took the stage in the Old Chapel.

About 50 students and a few faculty and administrators packed into the chapel to hear Merkel tell of his personal journey from a military arms dealer, to a radical activist, to a peaceful middle-aged man who has learned how to neutralize his ecological footprint and live the good life.

In his twenties, Merkel helped the United States government sell military arms to foreign countries, but after witnessing the environmental devastation caused by the Exxon Valdez oil wreck in 1989 and believing that he was in part responsible for this atrocity because of his work, he quit the government and chose to live a more meaningful life.

For 16 years, Merkel has lived comfortably on only $5,000 a year, and he has traveled the world to promote peace and teach sustainable living.

He told the audience how each one of us needs to learn to live a sustainable life, and that we should have fun doing it.

His talk seemed to strike a chord with audience members.

"Though it may seem that one or two people couldn't make a difference in the world, the truth is you have to start small to make it big," student Jennifer Mitchell said.

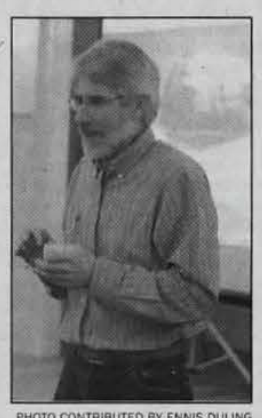


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ENNIS DULING

Jim Merkel

Student Megan Rodgers agreed saying "providing one's own sustenance is very fulfilling and life affirming."

You couldn't help but feel the hope and passion that Merkel exuded when he spoke, and many students walked away tremendously motivated to move forward.

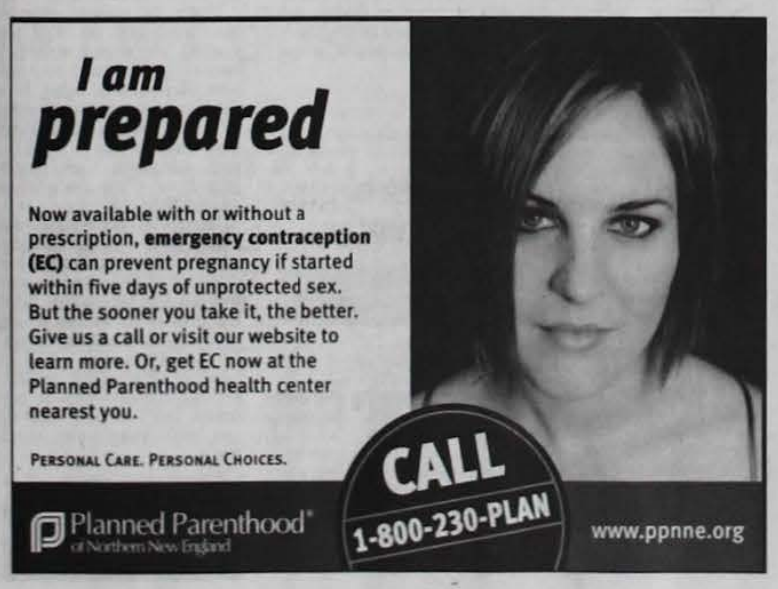
"Now is the right time to act," said student Amanda Nigrello. "Lacking funds doesn't mean we can't be sustainable."

Katie Lawyer echoed Nigrello's comments saying "my generation has the right to be heard."

Several students stuck around after to chat with Merkel about how to advance sustainability at Castleton and in their own lives.

Look for the upcoming speakers in the sustainability series, and get ready for Castleton's Sustainability Day Celebration on April 25.

If you are interested in helping make the campus more sustainable, contact Natalie Brassill to join the Sustainability Club or contact Professor Paul Derby to learn more about student sustainability projects.



Joanna Doolan

Fresh Perspectives

Cold season strikes again

Oh joy, it's that time of year again folks.

You know the drill. Kleenex overflow our trashcans, noses are as red as Rudolph's and our best friends in the world come in bottles bought in the pharmaceutical section of any store.

That's right, it's cold season!

As you can tell, I'm absolutely thrilled with this prospect. I mean, who doesn't love blowing their nose every two seconds, or hacking up a lung? I know I look forward to it. My nose stings and food tastes like ash. It truly is the time of my life.

Everyone is getting sick. It's bad enough when you are sick, but when everyone else you know is sick and whiny as well, the fun never stops. You get to deal with your misery, and the misery of every single friend you have.

Makes you want to lose some friends.

And it's not even that I'm that sick. But when you are coped up in buildings listening to three-hour lectures, or sitting in your dorm room inhaling more germs, it feels like the end of the world.

Then when you decide to step outside, the below zero weather hits your warm, puffy nose and nothing else in the world could be worse.

I definitely think this weather is not helping. Maybe if it were a tee bit warmer I would motivate myself to do more than sit around my dorm and wallow in my own snot.

I sometimes contemplate why I stayed in Vermont. I hate snow. I hate being freezing cold and wearing ten layers to walk across the street into a building that is as hot as the fiery pits of Hell. I hate getting colds ten times a year.

I do a lot of thinking when I'm ill apparently.

I guess I'm glad I just have a cold, and I'm not as sick as I was a while ago.

Have you ever had a migraine? Those things are the worst. Sometimes I forget and then am happily reminded of them when the room starts spinning and I get tunnel vision.

So a cold is definitely better than that.

I am often told that I should live in a bubble. You know like the movie with John Travolta (or Jake Gyllenhaul if you don't know that the new one was a remake of an older movie). I should just get a bubble suit and be on my way. That way I couldn't get sick or hurt myself because I always do.

I would love for one day in which I have no physical ailment. I annoy myself to be quite honest.

I have devised a plan that will work. Everyone will live in his or her own bubble. That way, illness will not spread, people will not be injured and all will be well in the world.

Besides that whole procreating thing that we need to make a next generation.

To come back to my point entirely, have tissues on hand and cough syrup in your cabinets. If you're not sick already, just wait.

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do it now.
?
What are you waiting for?

Huden taps into students' social life

By Ariel Delaney
Spartan Staff

With beers in hand, feet tapping the floor, and heads nodding to the bongos, students clearly were enjoying the latest Pub Night.

And being open mic night, the flare of diverse talent accented this effort to show that responsible drinking can be done on campus.

Katie Diemer and two others working along side her have a goal - to have a permanent pub on campus. The pub, they say, would ideally be in a separate location other that the Alumni Room in Huden, where the event is held now do to alcohol license restrictions.

These restrictions limited alcoholic events to the president's house and the alumni room in Huden. Even when events are held, a representative from Aramark must obtain permission from the town Select Board.

However, this policy was recently altered to allow alcohol in all of Huden's rooms, citing a future potential for a permanent pub. Some feel that this could cause a rift between the community and Castleton.

"If the community actually involved themselves, they would see and not assume that it's not about drinking, it's about community where we can socialize together. It's a place where we can go," said Diemer.

The pub nights spawned from a senior seminar sociology class and a discussion of community issues. The theory is that there are three places in our lives: home, work/school and community.

Studies have shown that many people, especially young people, don't have that third place. Sociology professor Phil Lamy said that this breaches culture and country.

"America is loosing its community," Lamy said noting that there are fewer places where people can congregate.

But whether their efforts can culminate in permanent campus pub remain to be seen.

PHOTO BY ARIEL DELANEY

A personal welcome to students entering The Third Place in the Almuni Room.

"A pub's not only for students, but for faculty as well to create a better community … There are people in your class that you don't hang with," said Diemer expressing her irritation with the lack of hang out spots for students.

Many students at the latest pub night support the idea.

"I think it's a good idea for older students," said Bailee Bishop.

The 21-year-old senior said a pub would bring in large revenue for the college and said that with a pub or not, some students will still abuse alcohol.

But she said that a campus pub might cause a decrease in off-campus drinking, essentially eliminating the possibility of drunk driving.

"Hey, we don't have to drive," said Bishop.

Catherine Eddy, also a 21-year-old senior, feels that the current pub night events need to be more coordinated.

"They should advertise better (e-mails) if they want people to come - and get better music," said Eddy.

Eddy said that she felt students are scared to come because of the events campus location and the presence of administrators.

Mike Lefebore agreed.

"I thought it would be a lot busier," said Lefebore, who said he supports the proposed pub. "A pub gets people to drink on campus, potentially avoiding them from making bad decisions," said Lefebore, who also drives for Safe Ride.

But it's not only students who like the pub idea, as Aramark employee Penny Lanpher points out.

"A great idea! It's getting everyone out to have a good time and keeping us from driving you home," said Lanpher. "As long as things go to plan, I don't see a reason why you shouldn't have a pub," said Lanpher.

Faculty members present at the latest pub night, like sociology professor Gary Kruml, talked with students, exchanged laughs and pondered the what-ifs of a permanent campus pub.

Kruml applauds the pub night efforts and said he supports a permanent pub.

"I think of students as responsible adults and it would be nice to see a place and nice to see something like this becoming constant," said Kruml.

Not every student goes to the 'pub' event to drink. While students like senior Brian Paquette don't drink, they see some advantages to a campus pub.

"I like it because it's laid back and it's safer. Even though there's Safe Ride, a lot of students just don't use it for whatever reason," said Paquette.

Katie Diemer isn't the only student working on this project. Senior Joe Zeitler is a part of the same senior seminar class project.

Zeitler said he's aware not everyone is happy with the idea of a permanent pub and said an upcoming forum on the topic will be perfect for those people to express their concerns.

"We are never going to get everyone in agreement, for that reason we want to hold a community forum," said Zeitler.

Lamy's previous classes have created projects in the past including the Coffee Cottage , which began when President Dave Wolk first came to Castleton.

"That, as everyone can see was successful and we want to do it again," said Lamy

Lamy said the problem is that pub night isn't a "place," it's just an event right now. He said it needs to be a place, preferably in the Spartan room in Huden.

Lamy and his class are holding a forum mid semester and is hoping to have the pub up and running by the beginning of the next academic year.

Comments from the speak-out board:

"Please, give us our own place to hang out with friends! We really need more of these, this is the best thing that has come to Castleton in a long time."

"This is an amazing opportunity for Castleton students to get together in a relaxed atmosphere, yet enjoy campus. Keep them coming."

"Great idea- informal contact between students and faculty- outside the classroom." (THIS ONE IS FROM A PROFESSOR!)

"I love it, we should do this every week." (Kelley O'Brien, CSC Student)

Faculty Forum

Here I am!

Judith Carruthers
Faculty Column

Why do I do what I do? Thirteen days without a day-off kinda thing? Well, something magical and miraculous happens pretty much every day.

Who else can say that? Well, very few folks who work on college campuses can relate to days off, but any one who works on our college campus sure can relate to witnessing the magical miracles!

For instance, one day, a beautiful young woman came into my office and sat down and just looked at me with this funny smile. She said, "You don't remember me, do you?"

I said, "Ooooh ... I am so sorry, I speak with 85-plus students a day on average, and sometimes I just can't remember the name ...."

She said, "Well, let me remind you. A year ago, you were shopping in B. Moss in Diamond Run Mall, and I was working there. Once again I was telling you my tale of woe of how I always wanted to be a nurse, but I couldn't go to school because I had two small children and my husband gets transferred every two years, and you just turned around and looked at me and said: 'All I ever hear is excuses - why don't you just get off yer butt and do something about it.'"

(I was so embarrassed to be reminded, but she said, 'No. You were right, you were shopping, you were tired, I was kvetching about the same old, same old.')

She said she went into the back of the store and cried for an hour. I felt even worse! Then she said: "I wanted to wait to come and see you until I had completed my first year of nursing. Here I am."

Here I am. Imagine. Magical miracle.

Another time I was loading my car with stuff from Jo-Ann Fabrics in the other mall – I'm always in a mall, it seems, if I am not on campus. Anyway, a friend from church came up to me in tears. Her world just ended. She had worked at a Rutland department store for years and they just laid everyone off and oh, my God, what would happen to her now.

So I asked her, "If you could do anything in the world, what would it be?"

She said she wanted to be a nurse. But she hadn't finished high school. Guess what? GED, CCV and three terms of Castleton nursing down! Here she is.

That's why I do what I do. That's why I wear my Castleton name tag when I go shopping. Kinda like Inspector Gadget in the cartoons: "I am always on duty!"

The minister at my church refers to my "job" at Castleton as my 'calling.' It's soul work at its very best. Last year, the students writing in the Spartan referred to me as "the dream-maker" and seriously, I sat in my office with tears in my eyes.

That's the greatest compliment ever paid me. I'm not magical. I'm not miraculous. I have a big mouth and I have just been blessed with being in a position to give some pretty incredible people a platform from which to leap …. And so, yeah, sometimes, I give 'em a little shove. It's so much fun to see 'em fly!

That's why I became a Justice of the Peace – because a student asked me to marry her and her guy. That's why I come in every day and I'm here late at night and it takes me so long to get my shopping done! Here I am. I'll be 60 on Feb. 24. I'm breathin', I'm above ground, I'm havin' fun. This is my dream. Don't you dare tell me you can't make yours come true.

Professors, send in your story: thespartan@castleton.edu

A local piece of Vermont

Citgo customers show off the Vermont flair

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

Two pairs of golashes. Two pairs of work boots. Three pairs of snow boots. One pair of sneakers. Back to golashes, work boots, and snow boots.

Sneakers trudging through the single glass door into Castleton Corners Deli and Citgo are a rare sight. The family-run business is a hub for locals who are looking for some conversation in the early winter mornings before heading out onto the ice, snowmobiling or to work.

Muffins and coffee

Forget the gas. It's all about the coffee and muffins.

Quickly entering, the "regulars" go straight ahead from the door to the coffee, their faces bright red showing that it "certainly is cold enough". A "Hey, how are you today" personally welcomes each chilly customer, whether Lorraine Keller yells it from the back or speaks it quietly up front.

Moving to the cash register, few can pass up a freshly baked muffin tantalizingly sitting right next to it. Within 10 minutes, five have vanished. Meanwhile, the muffins' neighbors, the pastries, are ignored.

The men in her life

Lorraine, the only one working this Sunday morning, is the wife of owner Timothy Keller. But, the void of not having her husband around is filled with all the men hanging out. Never alone, there is always at least one male presence.

With shoulder length black hair and glasses, Lorraine strikes up a conversation with everyone who enters. It could be about the news, the kids, or the inevitable, the weather. Easily, she finds out that the three snowmobilers that just gassed up are headed out onto Bomoseen.

As the Coca-Cola clock ticks away, the gathering inside briefly grows. With coffees in hands, 15 minutes pass, 20 minutes…

Still, the chatting continues.

While the men talk, Lorraine tries to sneak in an odd job between customers. But, it isn't long before the glass door swings open again. This time, she can't pass up stopping to talk to the man in the "True American Grandpa" baby blue sweatshirt.

"Bring that baby. Bundle her up," Lorraine tells him, although adding that if it is too cold, not to bring her out.

One of the centers of conversation is the kids and grandkids. And the proof is in the photos on the wall behind the counter.

Baby blue is unique to the gas station and stands out among the normally dark clothing.

Greens, browns and all around camouflage take center stage, but the all essential baseball or hunting cap accessory can't be forgotten either. Overalls, suspenders and the sound of whisking snow pants break up the common style of jeans.

A family

Taking two wrapped gummy watermelons, a tall lanky man puts them up to his mouth like he is about to put dentures in.

"When we were kids, we use to take two of these and see if we could open our mouths," he says, smacking his lips that have been curled over his teeth together.

He continues to joke around with Lorraine and another customer about rednecks, the weather causing him to lose his tan and Exxon's gas prices being lower. He's not the only one as he is jabbed back with jokes like "town drunk" and "he's good at blocking the pumps for an hour."

Each knows at least one other. Sometimes words are not even needed. Without asking, Lorraine hands a customer a copy of the New York Times.

Knowing each other like brothers and sisters, Lorraine asks one man, headed to the South, who he's going to talk to.

"I've already got a new deli picked out."

After a half-hour or so, the decision to leave is finally made.

"Stay warm and have a good day," Lorraine says smiling as a man's back turns to leave.

"I may be back later."

The husband

On a quiet Thursday afternoon, Tim strolls around the little isles of goodies. With stories abound, just floating in his mind, he could write a book. In fact, it's a goal.

"I've got thousands of stories. I've really lived," he said, playing with his glasses. "Most have just existed."

When he was young, the NYC native use to come to Vermont and found he really liked it. Then, later on, all it took was the decision to move.

As a true New Yorker, Tim is a Yankees fan. And the local Red Sox fans reactions?

"We have a lot of fun," he said. "We generally have a lot of hoo-ha about the two teams."

Tim says that the key to having his place as a gathering location is that he can communicate with people very well. Just one conversation can lead to a new friend.

"This fellow walks in one time and gets lunch. He sits down to eat and when he finishes he walks up to the counter.

He says, 'you know who I am?' Nope. 'If I come in here, a lot of people won't.' I said well, then, I guess they won't have to leave. It was a meeting of the minds and we became damn good friends."

From the first day on the job, Tim has met several New Yorkers, from a firefighter to a fellow high school graduate, only a year ahead, whom he never knew. Even a music teacher that walked the same halls has come through the glass door.

"It's a very strange thing. This area seems to draw people. You never know who's going to walk in."

Shrimp at Huden?

By Dawson Raspuzzi
Spartan Editor

Greasy hamburgers, cold pizza, salads that are a little "overripe" and mystery dishes that make up ordinary college cafeteria menus are being replaced.

Well, for a handful of nights anyway.

Huden Dining Hall and ARAMARK now have unique dinner menus that are offered for "festive meals" and "formal dining evenings." This semester, there are eight of these evenings planned, the next taking place today to celebrate Valentine's Day.

For $3 and a swipe on the student's meal plan card, students can enjoy baked stuffed scallops on the most romantic evening of the year.

The idea for the special dining was thought up by Food Service Director Pete Merritt, who came here from the University of Maine last summer.

Upon his arrival, he brought with him the idea of offering special evenings where food, along with decorations, go beyond what is supplied for everyday meals.

The first "festive meal" was on Halloween, which Merritt said the number of students partaking was low.

For the second, however, a Thanksgiving dinner, the turnout increased.

Many students like the idea of having special nights where more expensive and higher quality food is provided.

"I went to the Thanksgiving dinner and it was real good. I also had shrimp there one night, which was awesome," said freshman Michael Thomas.

Thomas said that he doesn't mind paying an extra $3 for many of the special meals that are offered.

"If I was going to skip dinner at Huden and go out and buy shrimp at a restaurant I'd be paying a lot more," he said.

While many students enjoy the unique food, others have no interest in paying extra money to eat in Huden.

"I pay almost $3,000 a year to eat in Huden and now they're saying to get some quality food I need to pay more? That's not right," said freshman Eric Jipner.

Merritt said that the extra money that students are required to pay for these dinners is necessary because of the amount it costs to buy the food, along with additional expenses including having extra people as a wait staff, extra culinary staff members, table linens, and cloth napkins.

Considering the extra expenses, Merritt said, "I feel $3 plus a meal swipe is an excellent deal."

On March 6, Maine lobster will be served in Huden, and even Jipner said he may have to cave in and pay the extra $3.

Annual sweatshirt sales begin, get yours in campus center

By Amanda Thomas
Spartan Contributor

It's sweatshirt time again on the Castleton State College campus – but your time to get one is running out!

The Residence Hall Association gives students the opportunity every year to create a sweatshirt design for the annual sweatshirt sale.

This year's chosen design was created by freshman Alex Zappile.

The $15.95 sweatshirts have been popular with students on campus and with commuters.

"It's something fun to have and be apart of, you can have your dorm name on the front as well as the school year, with the special design for this year's on the back," said student, Miriah Miner.

If you would like a sweatshirt, your last two chances to buy them are today and Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Campus Center.

SOUNDING OFF

all your SOUNDINGS information IN ONE SPOT

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Was it a success? A flop? Please contact a Soundings instructor or Spartan advisor David Blow to share your thoughts.

EVENT COUNTDOWN

14 LEFT

QUOTABLE LINES:

Rick Dunn--Marathon Plain
Q--What are the advantages to interdisciplinary such as the work Professor Dunn described?

People from different fields have different points of view and varying knowledges of different fields so it would help solve the problem easier. Obviously, military historians and archaeologists are involved in different bodies of work so they can lend their expertise in different ways than each other. Also going to different types of post high school education would make a difference as well.--Craig Borgen

When experts from different fields work together they can fall back on each other. If one person gets stuck perhaps another has the answer to help that person keep going. Also, it is difficult for historians to describe what happened if they don't know what the landscape was like. Historians can also help geologists out by telling them what it might have been like and then the geologist can have an idea where to start looking.--Gordon Jacobs

Bringing a whole bunch of people together to do interdisciplinary work helps out by having multiple people with a vast knowledge on a certain topic. It also helps because someone else might have information you don't so you can compare and share to get a more accurate idea of what actually happened. It also looks good when working with others to share credit rather than keep it for yourself.--Roie Furman

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE CANNOT QUOTE YOU UNLESS YOU CHECK THE BOX AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR SOUNDINGS' CARD THAT GRANTS US PERMISSION.

COMING UP NEXT:

FEBRUARY 15TH, 12:30 P.M. HERRICK, MICHELLE KENNEDY, WITHOUT A NET
Do you think homelessness is just for the uneducated, the poor, the jobless? Wrong. Michelle Kennedy was educated, middle-class, and working, but she and her three children still ended up living in her car. Come hear her story; it may open your eyes.

FEBRUARY 27TH, 7:00 P.M., FAC CASELLA THEATRE, PRINCELY PLAYERS
The Princely Players take audiences on a musical journey through African American history, from slavery to freedom.

MARCH 1, 12:30 P.M., BLACK SCIENCE AUDITORIUM, RACHEL HARDING, "Activism, Inspiration, and the Spirit of Democracy."

PLANNING AHEAD--March 7 is the Keystone Event--An Inconvenient Truth.

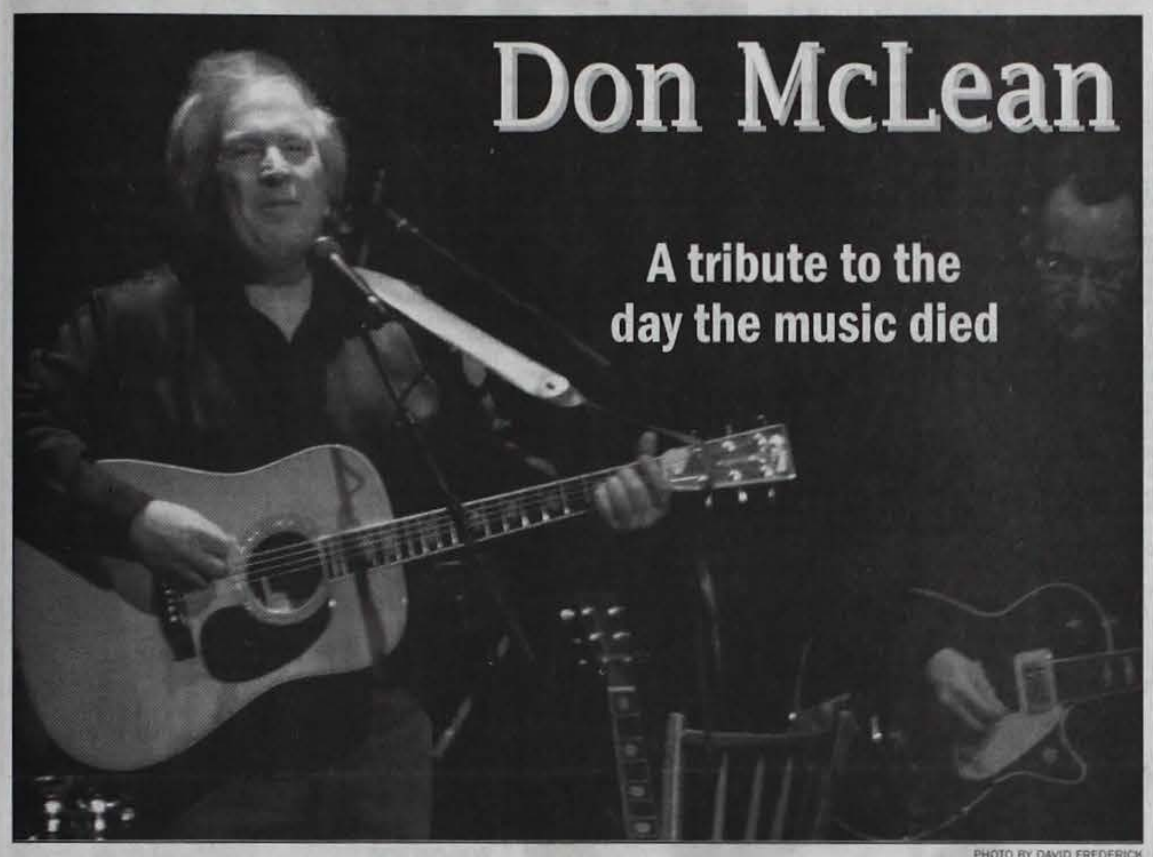

PHOTO BY DAVID FREDERICK

Don McLean

Don McLean

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

They came for a slice of American Pie; they never expected to get pied in the face.

Music legend Don McLean recently honored Buddy Holly at the Paramount Theatre on the 48th anniversary of the day the music died.

McLean began his set by playing a number of Buddy Holly songs, including "It Doesn't Matter Anymore," a ballad which McLean requested at a local radio station on Feb. 3, 1959, the day the music died.

Also during the set, McLean didn't fail to bring the fans what they wanted playing a number of his major hits including 'Castles in the Air' and 'Crossroads.'

"You know, the fourth song on Side 1, when albums still had sides," McLean said.

During 'Crossroads' McLean's drummer, bassist and rhythm guitarist left the stage leaving only McLean and his pianist.

As a performer, McLean has a natural air of confidence, swaying along with the melody while singing into the microphone, his voice full of emotion.

I have to say that on a personal note, that this show was unlike any other I've been to and I'm not saying that it's a bad thing.

The atmosphere was not of the loud, fast-paced caliber that I'm usually experiencing at metal and hardcore shows.

Instead, it was calm, cool and collected. People sat in their seats hanging on McLean's every word showing him the utmost respect -- except for a young boy who couldn't help but fall asleep.

McLean attracted a diverse crowd. There were people of all walks of life and all ages. Some dressed up for a night at the theatre while others wore tie-dyes and Pink Floyd T-shirts. The diversity surprised Monique Skowonen of Middlebury.

"I was expecting a bunch of elderly people, he's from way back," Skowonen said as she took another drag from her cigarette.

About 45 minutes into the set, McLean began to play 'American Pie,' and the theatre came alive. People started dancing in their seats, clapping to the beat and they sang along after McLean extended the invitation.

When McLean got to the chorus, "Bye, bye miss American pie, drove my Chevy to the levy, but the levy was dry, some good old boys drinking whiskey and rye singing this will be the day that I die," the voices of hundreds of fans filled the theatre.

The harmonious sound of their voices was equal, if not more powerful than that of a church choir, a fitting tribute to the artists who lost their lives 48 years before.

After 'American Pie' concluded, McLean was honored with a standing ovation and a crowd in desperate need of an encore.

He once again did not disappoint his fans.

McLean picked up his banjo and played it live for the first time in 20 years.

"I actually can't believe people stuck around for the encore and that he played the banjo, it was awesome," said Sean Grabowski, a senior from the College of St. Michaels in Burlington.

Amazingly, people really started to loosen up after the banjo came out. People were clapping and stomping their feet to the beat up in the balcony.

"My biggest kick of the night was watching this 80 year old women slap, clap and dance her way through out the night," said Castleton student Robert Denny.

Yet, perhaps the real entertainment came from McLean sharing himself with audience. McLean shared stories about the birth of his daughter, his hatred of politicians, his obscure sense of humor and a cleverly crafted PSA.

"I'm happy I can still sing. I can sing because I don't smoke. I would smoke if not for the asthma, which also got me out of the Army," McLean said.

McLean's jokes struck a chord with one Rutland local, Gordie Sheldon.

"Now I have some new jokes. If a man says something in the woods and no woman is around to hear him is he still wrong?" Sheldon said repeating one of McLean's jokes.

In the end, when it comes down to capturing the whole essence of the night Marie Marro of Rutland said it best.

"What better thing to do on a Saturday night?" she said, still giddy that she spent the 37 cents to call into her favorite radio station for a chance to win tickets to see a legend.

A Reel close look at rap and hip-hop

By Amanda Thomas
Spartan Contributor

Have rap and hip hop lyrics gone too far?

February is Black History month and as part of that the Reel Action club is showing a documentary film 'Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes,' which details the darker side of the music.

"People listen to rap all the time and that's why I think it will be a good turnout, and more of an eye-opener then controversial," said Matt Kimball, president of Reel Action.

The documentary shows how lyrics and the hip hop culture in general are very violent and how they depict women in a highly sexual and inferior light. It also details what the rap artists think of themselves.

"It's very insulting to both men and women," said Professor Sanjukta Ghosh, advisor to Reel Action.

"The film is not negative, but thoughtfully critical."
Sanjukta Ghosh

The film, according to club officials, is being shown to help educate the Castleton community and really give students – many who are fans of the music -- a chance to see the other side.

"The film maker, Byron Hurt, examines why these certain images are shown again and again," Ghosh said.

Hurt is a fan of the music, but he tries to get to the bottom of why the lyrics and culture are the way they are.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the film and the reactions of the other students because it is a popular genre of music on campus," said student Sarah DiNello. "When you walk down the hall or outside of a dorm you can always hear rap blasting from a room."

Castleton isn't alone in showing the controversial film as part of Black History Month.

"UVM, Middlebury, and St. Michaels are also showing this film," Ghosh said. "The film is not negative, but thoughtfully critical."

The film will be shown at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 26 in Herrick Auditorium.

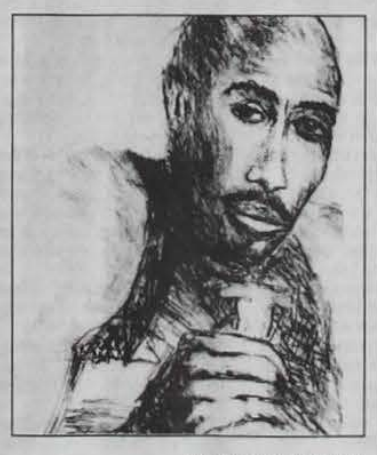

ILLUSTRATION BY MITCH WENZ
Tupac Shakur

REVIEWS

AUDIO

Nema: You Could Be All Flame

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

Satan best take a step back for a second, Jesus is bound to land a few punches come Feb 13.

On that day, Christian rock band, Nema releases their debut album 'You Could Be All Flame,' on a relatively new record label called Redwall Music.

Nema, a band whose music is heavily influenced by religion, has amazingly became an instant favorite of mine.

It plays nearly non-stop on my I-Pod while riding the bus to work or when I'm walking to and from class. And at home, I turn up the stereo real loud and rock out like a crazy person.

I received 'You Could Be All Flame' through WIUV a few weeks ago. I was surprised that I had never heard of the band before. Nema has shared the stage with hardcore acts like Every Time I Die and He is Legend, both which I've seen live.

Nema is from West Virginia and consists of members John Flint (vocals), Chance Taylor (Drums), Josh Wilson (Bass), and Tyler Timmy (guitar).

Bon Jovi, Michael Jackson and heavier artists like Sevendust and KoRn, are the bands major influences.

Nema resembles most bands in their genre. The vocals go from being soft and melodic to brutal screaming, a beautiful sound. The instrumentals have that typical hardcore sound; pounding fast paced beats and lightning guitar riffs.

My favorite tracks on the album would have to be "We'll Be Alive," "The Audacity," "Don't Forget Your Coat and Umbrella" and "I Feel The Life."

In all of these songs Flint's voice goes from Michael Jackson style vocals to a raw primal screaming at the drop of a hat. His lyrics are powerful and catchy at the same time.

"I have determined that there is nothing wrong…everything for me is gone…And I wake up every morning and I kill myself and I wake up every morning and I kill myself" is an example.

There are a few songs on the album that are solely focused on praising the almighty Jesus Christ of Nazareth. These songs include "Paul's Letter," and "Tyler's Song" and "Church Song."

"To choose to follow with faith…so show me how I'm to serve you…show me how I can burn from the inside out…so show me how I'm to serve you," he sings.

Chances are you've never heard of Nema before now and that is a goddamn shame. Yet, if you are a fan of Underoath, Poison the Well, Haste the Day or Between the Buried and Me, then Nema is right up your alley.

VIDEO

The Matrix is Dark City

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

Before I begin, first let me tell you there will be some spoilers ahead for Dark City and The Matrix. Most of us have seen, or at least heard of, the movie The Matrix. But one movie that might not be as familiar to you is Dark City.

When Dark City was first released it was mislabeled as a teen horror, the reason for its unpopularity. In fact, Dark City is a sci-fi noir (or tech-noir as some call it) that does more than just make the time pass like a teen horror movie.

The reason why I bring up The Matrix and Dark City is because they are so similar that the Wachowski brothers must have watched this movie and taken notes before writing The Matrix.

Through these simularities, I will answer the question, what is the matrix?

The antagonist is the first element of Dark City that was "borrowed." The antagonists are human-like aliens that are studying our kind so they can be more like us. These alien beings, with names like Mr. Hand, Mr. Book and Mr. Wall, are similar to the antagonists or the agents (the lead named Mr. Smith) in The Matrix.

Not only are their names similar, but they also have powers that enable them to fly (Neo could fly in the first and second Matrix movie, not the agents) and control the city using "the machines," another element which is explained later.

The protagonist, John Murdoch, gains the power of the aliens, ala Neo. John is the one person who can stop the creatures and Dr. Daniel P. Schreber is the only person who can teach him (i.e. Morpheus). The Matrix is so similar to Dark City that they both parallel a scene where the teacher guides the one person who can save everyone.

In Dark City Dr. Daniel P. Schreber calls John to tell him that there are people after him, while in the Matrix, Neo was called on a cell phone delivered by a FedEx deliveryman.

Like the machines are in control in Dark City, the machines in the Matrix give power to our bodies and take power from us so we can live our lives in the matrix.

In both movies, the city is not the real world, but a world where the humans serve the creatures and the machines.

John becomes one with the telekinetic powers and is able to control the machines and kill the agents, I mean the alien creatures.

There may not be so many similarities that the Wachowski brothers are liable for copyright infringement, just enough to show that the idea was possibly taken and inspired from, Dark City. Or, it just goes to say great minds think alike.

The Wachowski brothers should have given Dark City some kind of recognition in The Matrix, even if it was a Dark City movie poster in the background which would have been pretty cool.

If you're a fan of The Matrix then go check out Dark City, you won't be disappointed. If you're a fan of Dark City and saw The Matrix then ask yourself, which did you like better?

So what is the matrix? It's Dark City.

Jumps

Rock climbing club making a comeback

: Climbing
From page 1

climbers' chalk dust.

Next to the holds, different combinations of white, green, blue, and red tape mark favorite paths up and around the wall. The window and sills are plastered with rock climbing and outdoor sport memorabilia.

The once quiet, blank room has burst with attendance by experts and beginners alike and has been "customized" by the rock climbing staff including Korda and Kallfa.

They stressed that no experience or equipment is needed because they are willing to teach those willing to learn, noting the increase in attendance.

"A complete beginner can come in and still have fun," Kallfa said.

Along with getting college students involved with rock climbing, the staff is targeting high school and community groups to teach them the basics of rock climbing.

"A lot of people get hooked," said Deanna Tyson, the rock climbing wall supervisor who wants to see a rock climbing competition on campus.

Though the rock climbing club is becoming more visible, it has been around since the 80's said Korda.

Back then they would practice climbing in the gorge behind Castleton building.

An attempt at creating a rock climbing team faltered a couple of years ago.

For now, they are back on their feet and planning another competition for March 16.

Of competitions Korda said, "The thing about climbing is you can have the worst day and go to a competition and have the best day."

Valentine's Day a bust?

: Hallmark
From page 1

for the one they love, and not have to worry about spending hundreds of dollars on a present to make up for the rest of the year.

"Write your own card, it'll be more appreciated," Hall said, continuing that spontaneous and thoughtful gifts are a much better idea than the typical items.

Hall, who once worked at a drug store, also thinks prices at Valentine's Day are outrageous.

Cherie Pfeiffer, an art major at CSC, agrees.

"Because so many people believe they want these gifts for their loved ones, companies learn to take advantage of this and charge double the price of what things should cost," she said.

Supply and demand and procrastination are most often the reasons prices of flowers, candy, jewelry, stuffed animals and cards are jacked up near Valentine's Day.

According to research done by the Hallmark Company, about 180 million Valentine's Day cards are purchased each year. They also discovered that more than 50 percent of these cards are bought six days before the actual day.

The United States Department of Agriculture estimated about $422 million is spent on flowers for this holiday. The average price of a dozen roses starts at about $39.95, at least a $10 increase compared to what they may normally cost.

There is still hope for Valentine's Day, however. Not all people despise it.

"I think it's very romantic," said junior Heather Ormond.

And others interviewed said they still believe it's a fun, nice excuse to treat those who you love. Those who find it harmless enjoy the silly, cheesy traditions that have been going on for years.

Ormond also made sure to emphasize how Valentine's Day is actually all about the night. As a Hallmark card puts it "Good lovin' is like good cookin'. It's best served HOT."

"I think that Valentines Day is a nice idea, but is not always executed the right way," said Miranda Bevins, a freshman.

But no matter how you feel about the holiday, it's going to continue on for years to come - whether you like it or not.

Bringing in the big bands

: Bands
From page 1

spend $35,000 on a band, they want to make sure that they are able to make a profit. The current plan is to charge $20 for Castleton students that buy their tickets in advance and $30 for students who choose to buy tickets at the door. The price would be $30 for all non-Castleton students.

"I've thought about the positives and I think we can make money to put back into the Student Association, as well as use the concert as a good recruitment tool for both the SA, and Castleton in general," said McQuerrey.

Another potential problem is where the concert will be held. The current plan for a nice day is to have the concert in the area behind Glenbrook Gymnasium and Castleton Hall that McQuerrey says can hold thousands of people.

The plan for a rainy day is to have the concert inside of Glenbrook, which has notoriously poor acoustics. It is not believed that the Fine Arts Center, which has much better acoustics, is a large enough area to hold a concert of this magnitude.

If a band comes, it will be set up as an all day event that will include at least three other local bands performing before the two headliners.

McQuerrey says that they will not be selling alcohol, as he doesn't want to deal with the hassles it could cause. He does plan to sell snacks like hot dogs and hamburgers as well as soda and T-shirts. He hopes that clubs will be willing to get involved with some of these vending tables.

Questions persist about whether or not students are familiar enough with the band Guster to be willing to pay $20 to $30 to see them.

"The name Guster sounds familiar," said sophomore Matthew Graham. "I think people will be willing to pay $20 to $30 for that group."

Freshman Stacey Lariviere is quite familiar with Guster and said that they are a good band that is played on WEQX a lot, and will definitely bring in a big crowd.

Amongst that crowd may not be sophomore Andrew Barber.

"When I heard that SAAB was thinking of bringing in Guster, I figured I'd check out their music on the Internet, but I didn't like what I heard. I think they should go with another band on their list like Third Eye Blind instead," said Barber.

"I think people on campus will pay, but will complain while doing it, especially since it's an outdoor event and music can be heard for free," said senior Seth Tuper. "In other words, why would I want to pay money to be cramped next to a whole bunch of screaming people when I can just stand back and hear it for free?"

Student Association president Steven Vail backs the idea saying, "The last big name band to come to Castleton was ten years ago. If places like the Pickle Barrel and the Pottery Barn can bring big names, why can't we?"

Despite students that say SAAB should go a different way, McQuerrey is determined to try and bring in a band that can reverse SAAB's trend of drawing fewer than ten students to many of their events.

"Ever since I came to Castleton, I've wanted to do something big. I've been on the Student Association since my freshman year and I feel it is my job to represent the wants and needs of our students," said McQuerrey. "After nine months of planning, I've found a way to meet those needs and represent our college's mission in a fun and safe festival filled with music from all over Vermont and the Northeast."

A look into "Poverty is Hell":

Linking Liberia to Vermont

Speaker details poverty issues across the globe, from Africa to our backyard

By Rob Muraski
Spartan Contributor

It may seem difficult to do, but the executive director of the Peace and Justice Center last week linked poverty in Liberia to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and then to rural Vermont.

Serena Chaudhury, gave a presentation entitled "POVERTY IS HELL: A trail of tears from Africa to America" in Castleton State College's Herrick Auditorium.

Chaudhury stated that race, gender, and class were the societal oppressors that led to poverty, and she began by summarizing the formation of Liberia.

Liberia was created in the 1830s when the United States made an effort to re-patriate former slaves to West Africa. The country of Liberia was modeled after the U.S., with the constitution being written at Harvard University.

But tensions arose between the former slaves, Americo-Liberians, and the indigenous population whom they oppressed. In 1980, indigenous Liberians led by Samuel Coe, orchestrated a coup and assumed power.

This coup disrupted the country's stability and led to decades of civil war. As a result, poverty infected the country, affecting elderly, women, newborns, and young boys and girls who served as child soldiers. Rape was used as a tool of war, and mothers had to carry the unborn babies of their enemies. The lack of electrical infrastructure in the country also increased the degree of poverty in Liberia.

Finally, in 2004, a peace agreement was reached. Today Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is president of Liberia - the first female president in Africa - and Liberia is now stable.

From Liberia, Chaudhury brought us to the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

A similarity was drawn between the conditions in Liberia and the conditions in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. Most of the victims were black and had to flee their homes. While homeowners on the Gulf Coast were given trailers provided by FEMA, renters were given quarters on a donated Carnival cruise ship. Both situations resulted in crowded quarters, poor sanitation, and a strong military presence.

After discussing poverty in Liberia and the Gulf Coast, Chaudhury shifted her attention to rural Vermont. She discussed the financial problems affecting Vermont farmers due to economic and environmental hardships, and emphasized the need for livable wages in Vermont.

This is where the Peace and Justice Center is involved. It is located in Burlington, and is dedicated to promoting and preserving racial justice, economic justice, peace, and human rights and is responsible for Vermont livable wage campaign. Chaudhury ended the presentation by saying that "community is where the spark of justice is united".

I felt that Chaudhury did a good job linking poverty in Liberia to poverty in the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In both cases, the victims were black and were displaced from their homes. Race, gender, and class affected the scale of poverty in both areas and it was revealed that poverty could be caused by both natural and man-made disasters. Although she did mention poverty in Vermont, I thought there was a lack of sufficient evidence linking economic hardship in Vermont to the disaster-related poverty of Liberia or the Gulf Coast.

If you would like more information on the Peace and Justice Center or would like to make a contribution, please visit their website at www.pjcvt.org.

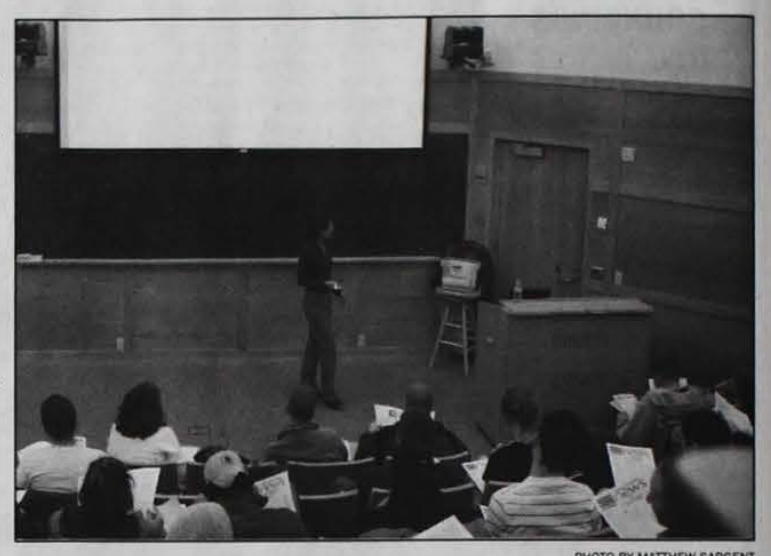

PHOTO BY MATTHEW SARGENT

Serena Chaudhury speaks in Herrick about global poverty.

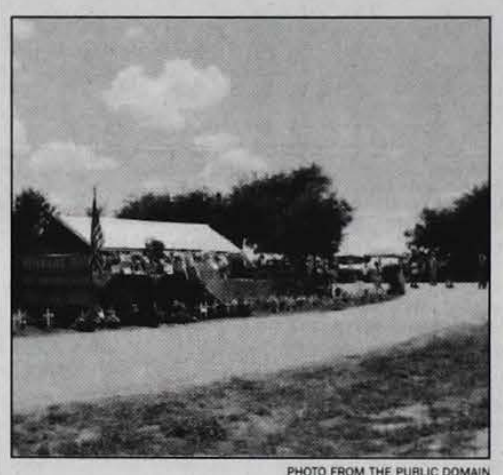

PHOTO FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Camp Casey outside Bush's Texas ranch memorializes Sheehan's son.

Famous "Peace Mom" to visit on March 3

By Eva Kane Leenman
Spartan Staff

She first gained the nation's attention in 2005 for her extended demonstration and campout near President Bush's ranch.

Now, she's coming to hold the attention of the Castleton Community.

Cindy Sheehan became one of the prominent faces of the anti-war campaign after the death of her son, Army Specialist Casey A. Sheehan. Casey was killed in action in Sadr City, Baghdad in April 2004.

Since Casey's death, Sheehan has engaged in U.S. international protests against the United States' role in Iraq, vowing, "I will spend my life trying to make Casey's sacrifice count for peace and love, not killing and hate."

The 26-day vigil she held in Crawford, Texas that made her a household name, drew hundreds of supporters including folk singer Joan Baez.

The 2005 demonstration that has since been dubbed Camp Casey was Sheehan's attempt to confront Bush about the war and demand an explanation for the America's occupation of Iraq.

Sheehan believes Bush owes her an answer as to why her son "had to die."

With a group of military families, Sheehan helped found the Gold Star Families for Peace in 2005.

Their web site describes them as "families of soldiers who have died as a result of war are organizing to be a positive force in our world to bring our country's sons and daughters home from Iraq, to minimize the human cost of this war, and to prevent other families from the pain we are feeling as the result of our losses."

The non-profit organization is now more than 86 families strong.

In November 2006 Sheehan and two other Gold Star mothers were arrested in front of the White House while attempting to deliver anti-war petitions.

According to MSNBC, the petitions opposed the use of military force in order to resolve the dispute over Iran's nuclear program.

Sheehan is the author of "Peace Mom: A Mother's Journey through Heartache to Activism" which was published September 2006.

She is also the co-author of several other publications, including "House of Ill Repute: Reflections on War, Lies, and America's Ravaged Reputation" and "10 Excellent Reasons Not to Join the Military."

The famous grieving mother will speaking at C.S.C. as part of her Town Meeting Democracy Tour with John Nichols of the Capital Times.

The event will be held in the Fine Arts Center Auditorium on Saturday, March 3rd at 6:30 p.m. It is free and open to both students and the general public.

Slow Internet? IT unaware but offering solutions

By Mathew Tuthill
Spartan Contributor

It's 1:51 p.m. and Castleton State College sophomore Joseph Marcum is trying to download the newest movie trailer for the upcoming feature film '300.'

"Oh come on," he sighs with disbelief. "Dude, what the f---?"

Marcum is grunting not because the trailer for '300' was bad, but because of the lagging speed of the Internet connection that students are dealing with this school this year.

Many students on campus, including Marcum, have been complaining to each other about the slow Internet speed and the number of times they seem to be getting kicked off.

But have the students been bringing their complaints to the right people?

Castleton Information Technology official Jonathan Czar doesn't think so.

"I haven't noticed any complaints about the Internet not working. To my knowledge, the closest thing was last Friday when a switch in Wheeler Hall went out for five to 10 minutes."

With a larger than normal freshman class, Czar was asked if this might be a reason to why the Internet would run slowly? He was also asked if a new server for Castleton would disperse the problem of the lagging Internet.

He began to shake his head side to side stating "we don't have a real server actually."

"What we have are 'switches' that get bandwidth sent to them and then out to the corresponding areas," he said.

Czar showed what the switches looked like in a locked closet room. He then showed and explained what the Castleton map looks like for Internet access on his master computer.

He said that the peak usage times are from noon to 6 p.m. Then it drops during dinner time and then rises again from 8 p.m. to midnight.

These times also reflect when students have mostly been complaining about slow Internet access.

Czar suggested that more bandwidth could increase speed problems students complain of. Asked how much it would cost, Czar said he was unsure.

Gayle Malinowski, the school's chief technology officer, said she too is unsure of the bandwidth cost, but said a simple call to the VSC would clear that all up.

She also stated, however, that the "higher-ups," meaning college administrators, would have to agree to an upgrade.

Malinowski also said that Castleton might be following Lyndon State College's footsteps in giving students an option for their Internet.

Lyndon State allows students to have the school's Internet or contact the local phone company and purchase a cable modem and pay for it themselves. Czar and Malinowski both said that before the cable modem would be allowed, the school must first have a system to be able shut down access to the school's network due to the risk factor.

Students with the cable modem would be able to bypass the firewall and potentially send a virus though the network.

Marcum said he feels that the school needs to "kick it up" and get more bandwidth. He even proposed his own solution.

"I think the school needs to buy more bandwidth if they can't cut the gamers stuff. Research should be number one on the list for this school and not online gaming," he said. "Gamers get too much bandwidth for themselves and play games sometimes 23 hours a day. This is a college campus and not a 'E-Gameage.'"

Czar said he wants the college campus to know that "for the Internet to run smoothly, there needs to be thousands of things clicking all at once and it only takes one thing, such as a wireless router, to make it all stop working."

He also said that he can't fix problems if he doesn't know about them.

"Just give us a call," he said. "That's the best thing you can do."

IT Services' helpdesk extension is 1221.

Talking to

Jackie Borelli

What do you think of Valentines Day?

Jenny Blandino – " I love it because I'm in a committed relationship, but when I wasn't in one I hated V-day." p.s. I love James

Ryan McCaffrey – "I think it's a great way to celebrate the love between two people or drink away your loneliness."

Natalie Brassill – "It's a time to appreciate the ones that you love…by buying them presents and Biotines."

Rachel Whiting – "I think it's cute for the couple, so the guy can spoil the girl and it keeps the boyfriend in check. Other than that it's a stupid holiday that companies use to take our money."

Katelynn LaDuke –"I love it. I used to hate it because I never had a boyfriend. Now I think it's a great day for a girl to feel extra special. It's hard to show someone you care, so this is a good day to do that."

Nice to meet you: *Michelle Scott*

Administrative Assistant, Leavenworth

Michelle Scott is the new administrative assistant in Leavenworth Hall. She is replacing Joyce Heald, who retired this semester. She formerly ran a daycare and still owns a cleaning business. I interviewed her on her second day on the job.

Jazmin Averbuck, Spartan Staff

Birthday: September 23
Hometown: Burlington, Vt.
Where do you live now?
Poultney
Favorite color? "
any shade of purple"
Why did you decide to take this position and leave the daycare?
"My children are all in school so it was time to get out of the house and go out to work."

How is work at CSC different than working at the daycare?
"It is a lot calmer. I don't have to worry about kids' snacks and toys."
How will you find time to balance your job at CSC with your cleaning business? "
I clean on the weekends."
While we are on the subject of cleaning, Ajax or Comet?
(laughs) "Comet"
Living in Poultney, what do you think the best kept secret is?
"The Trolley Stop. Ice Cream and a little restaurant."
What is it like working under Mary (the "Queen" of Levenworth)?
"Wonderful. She's very nice and very helpful."
Do you have any words of wisdom for the students of CSC?
(ummm) "I didn't think that I would get this on the second day. Always stay positive and work hard and your dreams will come true."
What was your dream job?
"I did it. I wanted to be a hairdresser."

Living with the devil

Don Lehman

Alumni Profile

His nickname was Satan -- and it wasn't given to him because he liked pitchforks.

The guy we referred to as the namesake of the prince of darkness was one of my suite mates my freshman year at CSC. Trouble seemed to follow wherever he went, and there was a bunch of us who served as his willing accomplices.

Within a few months of our arrival at 'The Rock,' we'd had eviction hearings and barely escaped being booted from our Haskell Hall suite.

By the second week of our sophomore year we had been asked (not so politely) to move on and move out. It had to be a school record for quickest mass evictions. We were lucky enough to find a dumpy summer rental on Lake Bomoseen to call home.

But we had only one car among us, which meant plenty of subfreezing mornings hitchhiking to and from campus.

Even back then, drivers didn't like to pick up hitchhikers.

The handful of us from that rowdy group who stayed in school after our removal from campus housing grew up in a hurry. My parental support cut back because of my misbehavior and I had to get a job.

I worked almost full-time for three years at Coon's General Store (now long gone) to pay my room and board, juggling work and classes.

At least for a year, I had to quit the college rugby team I'd help found. I learned that my actions could have severe consequences.

I learned I'd have to work harder than ever if I wanted to avoid heading home to New Jersey, ashamed at having failed in my first crack at college.

Nearly 17 years since my departure from CSC with the Class of 1990, I can trace a lot of my career success to those early days at Castleton, in and out of the classroom.

The journalism teachings of professor Terry Dalton laid the ground work for the vocation I enjoy today as a reporter with The Post-Star newspaper of Glens Falls, N.Y.

It was during the first semester of my sophomore year, as we were getting bounced from campus, that I took my first journalism class with professor Dalton.

He piqued my interest in the life of a reporter and frankly, without that faint hint that this might be what I wanted to do with my life, I might not have continued hitchhiking down Drake Road those brutal Vermont winter days.

Living less than an hour from Castleton, I occasionally return to the area to fish the Castleton River, talk to professor David Blow's journalism classes or head to Lake Bomoseen for the day.

There's a warm feeling as I show my kids the quaint little New England town where daddy went to college, drive past the old haunts (anyone remember Doogan's?) and think about how much fun those college years were.

That includes those days on the second floor of Haskell Hall with a certain devilish suite mate.

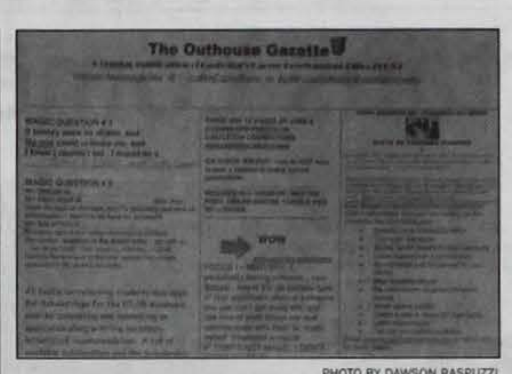

PHOTO BY DAWSON RASPUZZI

The recent edition of the Outhouse Gazette

The Outhouse Gazette to become bi-monthly

By Charles Smith
Spartan Contributor

For students who have been attending Castleton State College for the past four years, Judith Carruthers' Outhouse Gazette has been a regular supplier of information on jobs, campus activities and all kinds of helpful hints for the average student.

And its location, the bathroom, never ceases to change, or cause a chuckle.

The publication, which hangs over the toilets in the restrooms across campus, was actually started quite some time ago, but it was pulled from publication because of a lack of interest.

Carruthers, however, thought it was a great idea, and after five years since it's reestablishment in the school's restrooms, she says that she's been getting feedback like never before.

So much feedback, in fact, that starting this month The Outhouse Gazette will be upgraded to a bi-monthly publication.

Carruthers says that soon she hopes to have it focus more and more on specific majors, and that each issue will be specifically written for a certain major.

However, the strong focus on certain students each issue will not deter Judith from including as many different topics in it as she can. She said she's always contacted by different faculty, clubs, teams and students about different things to be included in the Gazette, and most of the time she is more than happy to comply.

The Gazette is also starting to span across different forms of media.

Information about careers can be heard on her WIUV radio program "Career Talk" as well as at www.castleton.edu/careers.

The school's restrooms aren't the only bathroom walls the Gazette adorns, however. Carruthers revealed that President Dave Wolk has a copy of every issue on his bathroom wall as well.

But what does the average student have to say about the bathroom publication?

From what Judith said, the feedback has been great and she's heard nothing but positive reviews.

Asking around on campus, her assumption about the popularity of the Gazette was proven accurate. An overwhelming number of students gave praise to the publication.

"An invaluable resource for the students on campus," student Ira Morgan said.

'True Patriot' gives a sense of mission

A critique of a student's film

By Mitch Wenz
Spartan Staff

What does it mean to be a patriot in war time?

"The True Patriot," a documentary by Castleton State College junior Mike Weins address essential questions about what we as Americans should do to be patriotic and leaves us with a resounding call for responsibility.

Ultimately the people control the country, not the government. Patriotism is loving the country, but also questioning what it does.

We must examine whether our government is acting ethically. It is our duty to learn from history and fervently stand up for what we believe is right. This is what it means to be an American.

This is what our founding fathers fought so hard for, and carefully protected in our constitution.

When an elderly couple was interviewed by Weins and asked why they protest the war they said, "This is why we stand out here every week, because we don't want to leave you a world we have made that is terrible. I feel sorry for you."

To me they are true patriots, acting out of love for future generations. They care so deeply for the country that even in the twilight of their lives they protest for change.

The film also asks area residents why are we in this war and what are we doing for the Iraqi people?

The official reason for the war is to find weapons of mass destruction, right? Well nothing was ever found, not one WMD!

So how is it that this war has come about and more importantly, were we lied to by our elected officials?

Some think that our president relied on "cherry picked" information to support his own agenda using the opportunity 9-11 presented. Others hold on to the belief that there were weapons that were later destroyed. I think one of the most provocative questions raised in the film was whether we are really in this for natural resources.

PHOTO BY JOANNA DOOLAN

Mike Weins

Are we, the world's most prosperous nation, driven to such extremes of consumerism that we must wage war and destroy lives in order to feed our greed?

And what is this war doing to Iraq? Well it's destabilizing the country, and the Middle East.

It's sad to say, but they were safer under their former dictator then they are under American occupation.

How are we to resolve this conflict? What does "victory" entail?

One opinion expressed by a local Rutland resident was that we should form a real coalition of the surrounding nations, people who have a vested interest in the stability of Iraq and with the help of the UN turn it over to them, and get our troops home now.

Overall, I think this was very good film. It gathered together the views held by men, women, young, old, student, teacher, soldier and veteran. The film leaves us with a sense of mission, that this is our country and our time, and it forces us to think -- what are we going to do with it?

Susan Hernandez

All alone surrounded by people

I am a middle aged woman, enrolled as a non-traditional student at Castleton State College. I am anonymous here. No one knows me. I have no history here. I am a very small fish in a big pond.

I attend my classes, study in the library, workout in the gym, eat in the cafeteria and drink coffee in The Coffee Cottage. All day long I come in contact with people, lots of them. Some of them I know their names and some of them know mine.

But I have no social group, no friends. This is disturbing to me as I am used to having a lot of people around me who know and like me. I have never been good at being by myself. I attribute that to the fact that I am a twin, and from the moment of my conception I have had a companion.

I find that I am lonely surrounded by people. I miss having study partners. I miss my support system. I miss having someone who knows me and knows something about me. I like my classes and professors. I even like my fellow students, but I have very little in common with them.

I am old enough to be a mother to most of them and even to some of the professors. As a non-traditional student I am different from the main population.

There are other non-trads here, but they travel in different circles because of the programs that they are enrolled in.

I am alone, it's just me.

But, maybe that can be a positive thing. If I don't dwell on what I am missing, and if I concentrate on what I will get out of the experience I might begin to enjoy it. After all, I am equipped with a pair of rose-colored glasses that I inherited from my mother. I am the eternal optimist, my glass is always half full and my cup runneth over.

I have a family and friends that love me and cheer me on. Even if I do not have a support system here, I have one at home.

With a change of perspective I can see the possibilities. Anonymity can be a liberating experience. It can be all about me. This new venue is a clean slate on which I can write a new story. It will allow me to go beyond any preconceived notions of whom or what people may think I am or, who I may think I am.

No one here expects anything from me. I don't have to organize or take charge of anything. I do not have to be responsible for anyone but myself. This experience can be a time and place of self discovery, and I can remake myself in my own image.

I am on a journey to recreate me. I can be anything and anyone I choose to be. I wonder who that is, and I realize that the person I will become here is still a stranger to me.

And that empty hole of loneliness is replaced with the anticipation and excitement of getting to know the new me I will become.

Check out the

SPARTAN ONLINE

www.castleton spartan.com

SPARTAN ONLINE

Women vying for division, men at 12-10

By Matthew Linden
Spartan Staff

Women's Basketball

It must feel nice to control your own destiny, especially for the Castleton women's basketball.

Heading into this past weekend's pair of home games, head coach Tim Barrett and the Spartans were in a tight battle with Becker College for first place in the North Atlantic Conference's West Division.

Castleton played Bay Path in the first game, and jumped out to a more than comfortable 43-10 halftime lead. Sophomore guard Jess Banks finished with a team-high 15 points in the 82-43 victory.

Freshman Katie Hoxsie came off the bench to score 14 points, while Mary Nienow and Carley Amedore chipped in with 13 apiece.

Castleton would complete the sweep with a 77-59 win over Lesley University. The Spartans led 39-27 at the half, but opened up their lead thanks to Nienow's 12 of her game-high 20 points in the second half.

Amedore posted her first double-double of the season, finishing with 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Banks scored 16 points, sophomore LeAnne Ketchen added 15 and senior Jenn Goff had 12.

The Lady Spartans, 15-7 overall and 12-4 in the NAC, have a two-and-a-half-game division lead over Becker.

Castleton closes the regular season at home against Becker on Friday and Elms College Saturday.

Men's Basketball

Junior guard Rich Reilly and senior forward Jeremy Jorgensen guided the Castleton men to a successful week while achieving individual milestones.

Jorgensen broke the all-time rebounding record Saturday against Lesley, surpassing Mike Whiting's ('75) previous total of 840.

He entered the game tied with Whiting, but grabbed nine boards to seal his place in Castleton history.

Reilly reached the 1,000 point plateau in an 80-63 win over Johnson State last Tuesday after scoring 20 points.

"When I came here my freshman year, my personal goal was to score 1,000 points," he said. "It was cool when it happened; the game was stopped and both teams congratulated me."

The Spartans defeated Lyndon State 90-83, and avenged a previous loss to Lesley with a dominant 90-69 win.

Jorgenson scored 24 points and Reilly added 21 to go along with seven assists against Lyndon State. Kevin Cayea came off the bench to score 13 points and Joey Farley chipped in 10.

In the win over Lesley, Reilly led the Spartans with 23 points and Jorgenson finished with 19. Sophomore Josh Howe had 18 points and Farley added 16.

Castleton, 12-10 overall and 7-6 in the conference, will host Becker on Friday and Elms Saturday in the season-finale.

PHOTO BY BETH PANTZER
Richard Reilly (20) fights for the ball from a Lyndon opponent. The Spartans won the game 90-83.

Tony Trombetta
Sports Column

Valentine's Day Love Fest

It's Valentine's Day. It's a time to spread love. It's a time to make love. It's a time to have some fun. Correction, it's time to make some fun.

This is the first annual Valentine's Day LoveFest. Let's count down this year's best cupid inspired love letters from the world of sports.

1. From Tom Brady to Peyton Manning-

"Hey Peyty, its Tommy. Kudos on the big win. I guess now you aren't going to have to hear about how I could win the big one and you couldn't. You're the man.

"You know, I've always been really mesmerized by your abilities. I really admire your strength and courage. How come you never call? Oh well. At least I still have Bill and my chin dimple. Oh yea, don't forget my three rings. Ok, well, I'm off to the mall. Catch ya later."

2. From Roger Federer to Tiger Woods -

"Eldrick, it's Roger. I just got back from Australia and I'm really psyched about this sweet trophy. You know, a lot of people are comparing us these days in an effort to see who the most dominant athlete in the world is.

"I just want you to know that I give the nod to you. I was unsure until I Googled your wife. Hope you don't mind."

3. From Tony Dungy to Lovie Smith -

"Nice try my friend. You were a worthy opponent. By the way, please don't mention to anyone that I talked to you in the corridor at halftime. I feel bad. I was trying to do the right thing. I honestly thought your best chance to win was by cutting Grossman loose. Sucker."

4. From Elin Nordegren Woods to Roger Federer -

"Listen here tennis boy. Let it be known that my head was super-imposed on all of those pictures. I'm flattered that you considered me a Google-worthy subject, yet mildly disturbed by it. You and Tiger better play nice on the set of your upcoming Gillette commercials."

5. From Mark Cuban to David Stern -

"Hola Mr. Commish. My people have informed me that I've paid your people over $2 million in fines over the past few years. Where exactly is that money going? Are you and Sir Charles 'hanging out' again? I hope you escape All-Star Weekend in Vegas with your bankroll in tact."

6. From Mia Hamm to Derek Jeter -

"Hi DJ! Nomar still doesn't know about us, but it's Valentine's Day and I can't help but think of you. Nomar just can't turn the double play like he used to.

"He's so into this new position, and it really freaks me out. Now he just stands there on the receiving end. Also, his production is way down from where it was seven years ago. I know you'll never lose it."

Spartans come up short

By Shannon Scirla
Spartan Staff

The Castleton men's hockey team fell short of what would have been one of the biggest wins in the schoool's athletic history Friday night,

The Spartans came into the game against Norwich having won 10 of their last 11 games, ranked ninth in the country and first in their conference before falling 3-1 to the Cadets.

Likewise Norwich entered ranked 10th in the country and had won seven out of their previous nine.

The Rutland Field House was packed wall-to-wall with 1,264 students, teachers and locals, the largest crowed ever gathered for a Castleton athletic event.

The Spartans hit the ice with the chants of, "let's go green," from the student section. They rode the wave of enthusiasm and had numerous scoring opportunities in the first period, including a blistering wide open slap shot by captain Joe Huchko that would have ended up around the Diamond Run Mall if Norwich's goalie David Thompsan hadn't made a beautiful save off his right leg pad.

"They missed on some opportunities," said Norwich head coach Mike McShane moments after his club's victory.

With 12 minutes left in the first period, the Spartans blew another opportunity to draw first blood after sophomore Mike Anderson hooked a shot wide left on a breakaway.

Less then two minutes later, the Cadets got on the board after sophomore Justin Wissman split between two defensemen and found the back of the net. The puck just missed the extended glove of goalie Jeff Swanson.

The Cadets had another chance with under a minute to go in the period to tack on another goal, but couldn't convert on a Billy Kasper backhand.

"We had chances to put in the 4th and 5th goal, but never did," said Mcshane.

It looked as though The Spartans would get one back in the second period after they found themselves with a power play advantage, but couldn't convert after only getting off three shots during the two minute advantage.

The Spartan faithful picked up the noise again after they had yet another opportunity to even things up on a power play. But they were silenced once again after Norwich's Rick Cleaver stole the puck at center ice and skated in for a short-handed goal putting the Cadets up 2-0. The Spartans would finish the night going a dreadful 0-8 on power plays.

"They just mishandled the puck and it wound up deflecting off me and just went in," said Cleaver after the game.

The Cadets could have very well drilled in another goal if Castleton's Jared Lavender didn't break up a puck that was centered across the ice by Norwich's C.J. Visko.

Moments later the Cadets sent a couple hundred Spartan fans to the exits after Norwich's Rich Cleaver netted a one-timer from Eric Lauriaault, taking an intimidating 3-0 lead on the Spartans.

"It was really disappointing, it took the life right out of the crowd after they put in the third one," said Castleton freshman and hockey fan Taylor McCarthy.

The Spartans came out in the third period on all cylinders trying desperately to get back into the game. Huchko missed on a slap shot a few feet inside the blue line early in the period as the crowed tried to rally the team one last time.

The chants of "let's go green" resurfaced throughout the rink after the Spartans finally scored on a Steve Culbertson shot.

"It was too little too late," said a disappointed Culberton after the game.

The Spartans only got off three shots in the final period.

"If we didn't make two mistakes this game would be in overtime right now," said Castleton Coach Alex Todd, minutes after the game ended.

PHOTO BY BETH PANTZER
Ross Carmichael slams a Norwich player against the wall on the game Friday night, putting the men's hockey team with a record 11-13.

The Spartans had a few good looks in the final minutes of play, but couldn't seal the deal on a second goal, even when Todd pulled his goalie with less than three minutes to play.

After the disappointing loss, the team rebounded nicely with a 5-0 thrashing of St. Michaels on Saturday.

The team is back in action Thursday at Trinity.

Team captures division crown

By Matthew Linden
Spartan Staff

From the start of the season, Spartan coach Chris Eder's goal was to claim another McBrine Division title.

After dominating the competition this past weekend, Castleton answered its coach's prayers and repeated as division champions.

The Spartans opened up strong in the slalom race at Pico Ski Resort, sweeping the women's podium and boasting six of the top ten skiers to win the team competition.

Senior Nicole Kondziela won her fifth race with a time of 1:28.98, followed by runnerup Lindsey Wilken and third-place finisher Brenna Nolan. Freshman Heather Patterson finished in fourth place, Emma Harvey took sixth and Colleen Pruss rounded them out in eighth.

The men had similar results in slalom and also won the team competition, defeating Wesleyan University by 42.5 seconds.

Sophomore Justin Schwartz led the pack in third place with a time of 1:20.20, Greg Towle came in fourth, and Tom D'Errico and Corey Gray finished in sixth and seventh, respectively.

Castleton also had top-ten performances from Tim Rogers in eighth place and Ryan Dunleavy in ninth.

In the giant slalom, Castleton once again swept the team competitions while having a pair of first-place finishers.

Patterson won her first women's race with a time of 1:25.59, barely beating out runnerup Nolan.

Wilken took the bronze, Kondziela finished in fourth place, and Harvey and Pruss claimed sixth and seventh, respectively.

On the men's side, Towle also won his first race, finishing with a time of 1:16.77. Evan Vomacka claimed the final spot on the podium with a third-place performance.

The Spartans had five more top-ten finishers: Schwartz took fourth, Dunleavy finished in fifth, junior captain Gray came in sixth, D'Errico finished seventh and Bobby Dreissig pounded out ninth.

With the McBrine championship in their pockets, the Spartans will compete in the Eastern Regional Championships at Waterville Valley, NH on Feb. 24 and 25.

While the team's performance won them another title, Eder enjoys hearing compliments about the way his team meshes together, especially from other coaches and racers.

"I am very happy with the way they work together and help each other out," he said. "I've been proud of our results and accomplishments, but I am just as proud of the way our team handles themselves during practices and races."

Women's hockey team reeling with 5-17 record

By Shannon Scirla
Spartan Staff

The women's hockey team has lost six of its last seven games, dropping to a disappointing 5-17 overall record.

Castleton had a chance to put up some numbers in the win column this weekend but failed to do so after dropping a pair of games to St. Anselm and New England College.

The Spartans put 17 shots on goal in their match up with New England College but were 0-10 on power plays.

Vanessa Carter was the highlight for the Spartans with 21 saves. Castleton lost 8-0.

On Saturday, Castleton couldn't turn things around against St. Anselm as they were only able to get 5 shots on goal and went 0-2 on power plays. The Spartan defense was appalling, giving up 48 shots on goal.

The Spartans lost 9-0.

The Spartans have been lead all season by the superb goal tending of Vanessa Carter, last years "goalie of the year" in the ECAC, who has 627 saves this season.

The Spartans were picked ninth in preseason poll by the ECAC, but with a 5-17 record they will most likely need to win out and get some help in order to make an appearance in the playoffs.

The Spartans have three games remaining and desperately need to win all of them to increase their slim chances of furthering their season.

Next Five Games:

2/16 V MANHATTANVILLE
2/17 V SALVE REGINA
2/22 @ OSWEGO ST.
2/24 ECAC QUARTERFINAL
3/3 ECAC SEMIFINAL

The SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper

WEDNESDAY, March 7, 2007

PHOTO FROM ENNIS DULING

Famous "Peace Mom" Cindy Sheehan.

Sheehan: Violence only creates more violence

By Mike TrzcIensky
Spartan Staff

As Cindy Sheehan approached the microphone and began to speak to the crowd assembled at the Casella Theater, she looked into the audience and noticed a young man in the front row wearing a t-shirt that read "Go Back To California."

Sheehan assumed that this message referred to her because as far as she knew she was the only one from California.

"I would rather be back in California," said Sheehan. "But I can't because innocent people are dying in Iraq. I can't sit back and let innocent people die any longer."

Sheehan was the keynote speaker on a panel designed to encourage Vermont citizens to support the state's impeachment resolution.

The panel encouraged voters to attend their town meetings on March 6 and voice their opinion to impeach President George W. Bush and Vice-President Richard B. Cheney. The issue was on the agenda in 23 Vermont towns. If the resolution is successful, the state of Vermont will call upon the U.S. House of Representatives to initiate the impeachment process.

Sheehan, whose son Casey died after serving only five days in Iraq, made international headlines in August 2005 when she put together a peace demonstration, dubbed "Camp Casey" that stood outside President Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas.

"I would give anything to have my son with me and not be on this journey," said Sheehan in her 30 minutes of talking to Castleton students.

Sheehan went on to talk about her anger at Bush and his refusal to have a private meeting with her, saying that anytime someone referred to Bush as the president they had to use air quotes.

"He has taken a constitution that had healthy checks and balances and he has spit on it," said Sheehan.

"This is the twenty-first century. When are we going to say killing innocent people is barbaric?" asked Sheehan.

Sheehan encouraged people to protest the war, but to be careful about the actions they used.

"We can't use their tactics, we have to come up with a new way," said Sheehan. "Violence only creates more violence. Killing only creates more killing."

But Sheehan's speech was not just about her dislike for Bush.

"When Hillary (Clinton) says George Bush deceived me, that doesn't inspire a lot of confidence in me. It means she was deceived by an idiot."

Sheehan went on to talk about the soldiers in Iraq and how many of them signed up before the war.

"If they're volunteers, why can't they just un-volunteer when the mission changes and not have to worry about going to jail," said Sheehan, who along with the rest of the panel had been traveling with members of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

Following Sheehan's lecture a question and answer time was available and the entire

Please see PEACE *PAGE 6*

Being green isn't easy

Report tells of global warming woes; CSC fights back

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEEMAN

By Bradford Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

Our winter consisted of nearly two months of record-breaking warmth. A time of the year normally reserved for snow angels and ski slopes quickly turned into a bust. Some places were so warm the ski areas couldn't even make snow.

All this mere weeks before one of the coldest January-February stretches on record.

So what the hell is going on?

A few weeks after the world's leading climate change scientists concluded – for the first time – that global warming is "unequivocal" and humans are more than likely the culprits.

And a few days before "An Inconvenient Truth" won an Oscar for best documentary, this reporter decided to find out what people around campus thought about the recent report and global warming in general.

An environmentally-conscious state like Vermont was bound to have some environmentally conscious college faculty and students.

"At this point they are in denial," said Paul Derby, a professor and coordinator of both the Green Campus Initiative for CSC and the recycling program on campus. The "they" he referred to are the detractor's, the people who claim that global warming is a myth concocted by journalists and liberal politicians.

"Either that or they have an agenda," he added, laughing.

Strangely, it's not quite a laughing matter.

After the study came out, it was revealed that the Exxon/Mobil Corp. was offering $100,000 to any scientists willing to debunk the study, a reminder that some companies will do anything to keep profits up.

Derby and the students in his anthropology and environment class began researching campus recycling programs at other campuses in the spring of 2005 and presented their findings to President David Wolk at the end of the semester. Soon after, their recycling plan for campus was embraced by Wolk, and the school became a part of the Green Campus Initiative, a three-year plan to make the campus "green".

"I think the report will have an impact on the general public," Derby said. "People are sort of grasping on to the reality (of global warming). I'm really very optimistic."

The climate report, which was released on Feb. 2, states that global warming will have a significant impact on the U.S.

It will cause drier conditions in the Southwest, more rainfall in the Pacific Northwest and New England, less snow in the Rockies and more hurricanes and flooding along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

The group states in the report that carbon dioxide, along with other greenhouse-trapping gases, have been the most significant factor to our climate with almost complete (over 90%) certainty.

President David Wolk and the college, however, aren't planning on contributing to this trend any more than they have to.

"I believe it's a serious issue," said Wolk, referring to global warming. "Obviously, we took the lead two years ago with what is probably the most comprehensive recycling program (possible)."

When asked about the Campus Green Initiative, Wolk obviously has strong feelings.

"We take it seriously and mostly through the work of staff and students we've really taken the lead," he said.

He went on to explain how the college is attempting to curb its contribution the global warming problem.

It will eventually turning the entire CSC fleet of vehicles into hybrids (already, a Toyota Prius and two Honda Civics are in use, with more vehicles to be purchased this spring). All paper products are bought recycled (when possible) and a planned compost pile will turn potential greenhouse-gas-producing, landfill-clogging waste into soil.

And more energy efficient lighting and censors for lighting and heat that measure the amount of energy put out have been installed.

All this to ensure that the campus is, as Wolk put it, "not just Castleton green."

And what of the students?

Most of the work for the recycling project and a slightly newer project, a club that is working on converting much of Huden's wasted oils into usable fuel, is done by the students. While showing that many students on campus care enough about the environment to actually go out and do something to help, the groups work also works as a motivation for other students.

"I hope it works the first time, so maybe other people and campuses will do the same thing, get the community into it" said Jen Mitchell, a junior.

Senior Brett Kornblum echoed those wishes, that the green effort will involve more than just the Castleton campus.

"Something like this is very good for the school.

Please see GREEN *PAGE 6*

Cat-burglars prowl Castleton Hall

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Students living in Castleton Residence Hall were once asked to keep their doors open in order to foster a closer community, but after a recent night of burglaries, students were urged to lock their doors.

Students awoke on Friday to find items ranging from cameras and Playstations to bass guitars and snowboards missing from their rooms. From various reports from students living in those suites, the time of the burglary is thought to be between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m., according to Laura Olson, a Community Advisor (CA) in Castleton.

Darkness surrounded the back staircase near the four burglarized suites because the breaker to the lights was thought to be tripped, Olson said.

"I know that public safety is dealing with certain aspects and they contacted Rutland police, but a lot is put to the residents to look for suspicious behavior," Olson said.

Most of a collection of videogames, Playstations, and musical basses that formerly dotted the common room of Castleton 203 was stolen. The suite was left with essentially its television and a pair of padded club hockey pants that had been taken out of an also missing hockey bag.

"Even if someone took only one guitar, it stings deep inside," said Steve Vowder explaining that he brought his guitar in from the common room before going to bed that night, but his Playstation and videogames were missing.

"I know that public safety is dealing with certain aspects and they contacted Rutland Police."

-Laura Olson, CA

The burglar went into rooms that were open or unlocked, but they also broke a lock to gain access to suite 204, students said. The burglar is suspected to have entered or at least opened the door where Heather Donahue and her roommate Sarah Gayle were sleeping.

"I'm creeped out, totally," Donahue said shrugging, thankful that her computer was left behind along with her television.

The locks were changed Saturday morning to prevent any further burglaries, however, Vowder does not plan on changing his habit of keeping the door open.

"Personally, it's not going to stop me from making my space as welcoming as possible," he said, stating that college is partly about hanging out with friends and locked doors would deter people from getting inside.

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Liam Madden, soldier turned war critic, speaks at Castleton

SafeWalk, brother to SafeRide, launches with minimal success

EDITORIALS

Sometimes a safe ride

By Bradford Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

Walking into the library last Wednesday to make your way to the computer lab to type up that all-important take-home mid-term, you probably sauntered by a couple of librarians who make work-study money.

That guy at the desk who just helped you print off that mid-term: also probably makes work-study money.

Those dudes in the green gym-shorts with the hairy legs helping to referee your intramural dodge-ball game: some of them make work-study money.

Those people over at Huden, the ones who clean up the ice-cream machine, refill the soda, refill that awful "cheese" sauce and restack the tray's that your lazy ass put on the belt wrong: some of them make work-study money.

And the young lady who is just now driving you home at 1:10 in the morning in a sweet and toasty CSC van--after you got too wasted to even look at a car-- she isn't getting anything. And you're only seeing her because you were lucky that the one night of the week you got trashed, she volunteered to sit around all night and wait for your call.

For no compensation.

Over the last year or so, the SafeRide program has been more and more visible on campus for one simple reason: it runs so infrequently that when it actually is up and running, we get an e-mail notifying us.

This semester, the program has had a resurgence, running almost every weekend since school began. Students are still volunteering and while its always good to see our peers volunteer, it's even better to see them paid for doing something good.

The SafeRide program is a beautiful idea. Being a small campus, and having a good number of upperclassmen living off that campus, there are parties being thrown almost nightly, sometimes miles from school.

If people want to go to these parties bad enough (and many do) they'll go no matter what. They'll go even if they won't get some work done. And they'll definitely go even if they have to drive. And if they drive to the party, they'll need to drive back.

To successfully run SafeRide and have people too-drunk-to-drive call anytime they need a ride, it needs to be running. And it needs to be running every night.

If a great restaurant is open one night a week, at random, chances are people are going to go to the place that's open all the time, even if the food isn't as good and there's a chance they'll die. Salmonella or not, I'm going to Taco Bell just 'cause the Sirloin Saloon isn't open.

And it isn't an issue of there not being enough money. If the SA can give out a little money for an Anime club (and I'm not knocking you guys, Akira absolutely reigns) they can give out some money for this.

Those people running intramurals are helping people have a blast on a Wednesday night. But they aren't saving lives. A little bit of money is a small price to pay to avoid a potential lethal drunk-driving situation. And it's certainly the least we can give to someone who is willing to sit around and help make the streets a safer place for the people of Castleton and its students.

And a little bit of money is all we need to make sure that someone is sitting in that little room every night of the weekend to do just that.

ANDREW SPENDS MOST OF HIS COLLEGE CAREER PLAYING *THE SIMS*

The SPARTAN
CASTLETON STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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YOUR THOUGHTS

Professor reacts to "skipping class"

Dear Editor:

Brad Waterhouse's Feb. 14 editorial, "Skip to My Loo," made for some very interesting reading, especially for me as a second year professor who has also given some thought to attendance policies. As I read, I wondered whether or not the student perspective offered by Mr. Waterhouse would help clarify the issue for me because I always wind up asking myself when writing up a course syllabus if there isn't a better way--a more responsible way--to think about and deal with attendance issues.

Waterhouse's overall claim seems to be that attendance policies do more harm than good. He wants his audience to see them for what they are: punitive, inflexible, paternalistic, vindictive, and perhaps worst of all arbitrary. I don't think the term Waterhouse uses, "frivolous," actually captures the complexity of his overall argumentative strategy, but the term does help him connect with his primary audience, Castleton students who have needed at some point to be mindful of what a particular class's policies are. I suspect that this is a large audience, not because truancy is a major problem here (is it?), but because a relatively small percentage of students actually do attend all their classes. Life throws us curves, and as he points out, sickness, family issues, and especially at Castleton full- and part-time jobs make it difficult if not impossible for most students to win "shiny ribbons or plaques" for perfect attendance.

So far so good. Most rational people would have no trouble nodding their heads in agreement. I also think most people would appreciate the qualifications Waterhouse makes, despite the fact his primary objective is to be critical of attendance policies. He doesn't, for example, endorse "pointless class skipping," nor does he claim that it is unfair to "dock a kid for not participating." Such qualifiers help him to shore up his credibility, as he demonstrates that he believes in the intrinsic educational benefits of being in class.

So again, most reasonable people would find little to disagree about, so far. Things become more complicated and interesting, however, when Waterhouse gets to the primary points in his critique, points that ultimately allow us to consider where these policies come from and whether or not they actually "work." Are they in fact overly paternalistic and/or arbitrary? When Waterhouse questions whether docking a final grade for absences is "an accurate representation of a student's level of skill," I have to say I have often wondered the same thing. What is or even should be the relationship between these two things: being in class and skill level?

Waterhouse introduces that most elusive species of human being, "The Perfect Student," as a way to complicate this question, and it is here that things really get interesting. The "perfect student" already knows the course content and hence can't possibly learn anything new. This student could ace the final on day one, or so the story goes. Should attendance policies be equally punitive to those who already know the course material or who supposedly don't or can't benefit from being in class? And, while we're at it, what about this: what kind of student is typically caught up in attendance politics? Weaker students? Stronger students? "Perfect" students?

Waterhouse writes, "If the policy is to keep kids in class, then it's no good." He goes on to suggest that the regular skippers will just "skip anyway," and the regular attenders "will be there every day they can, adding to the class and getting good grades." Several things interest me about this comment. The last phrase, "getting good grades," strongly suggests that those who fall into the trap of an attendance policy tend to be the weaker students.

While I would probably agree with the idea that going to class means learning happens, I am less moved by the suggestion that weaker students skip more than those who get good grades. My experience, actually, is quite different. Overall, I'd have to say that weaker and stronger students skip about equally.

Equally vexing, and equally complicated, is the equation of amount of tuition spent with level of responsibility a student should be given over the outcome of their education. The issue, Waterhouse claims, comes down to choice. The stated reason is that students should be allowed to skip classes because they are paying to attend school. There are a few unstated assumptions in play here. First, the audience needs to buy the idea that paying money for something should mean having as much control over it as possible. Second, the audience needs to connect the dots between that equation and the idea that education is a kind of commodity that is essentially purchased, much like a gallon of milk. I have to admit that I buy these premises on one level, namely that many schools carry so much social and cultural prestige that merely attending them (excuse me, paying to attend them) is a guarantee of vocational opportunity. On another level, however, I can't completely accept the idea that paying tuition entitles anyone to anything beyond the stated benefits explicitly advertised by the institution in question. That is to say, paying tuition works like a kind of contract where the student in effect agrees to the terms and conditions set forth by the other party in the contract, namely Castleton, and its official representatives, namely its teachers.

Now, to be fair, Mr. Waterhouse simply states that his hefty tuition bill should entitle him to miss a class, especially if he's sick, and I have no objection whatsoever. This line of reasoning, however, is often brought into play by others who find themselves in the abyss of reckless truancy. Personally, I firmly believe that education is not a "thing" that is bought, although I do recognize and, sometimes appreciate, that there are those who feel it is.

Waterhouse suggests at the end of his editorial that we (instructors) should "assume everyone knows" that "attendance is mandatory" and simply strike it from our course policies. If, as he argued earlier, it doesn't actually work, isn't fair, and doesn't accuratcly measure a student's skills, then let it go. I am strangely attracted to this proposal, despite the fact that I don't buy most of the points it rests upon. I think the reason is that successfully letting go of an official policy would mean that students and instructors might actually have a meeting of the minds and not have to haggle over whether or not presenting a doctor's note actually "excuses" an absence. We'd all understand the rules and we'd all know exactly what happens when students don't go to class. And we all DO know, right?

Well, I'm not so sure. And for two reasons. The first has to do with an idea that Waterhouse points to without fleshing out. He writes, as I quoted above, that it's okay to penalize students for not participating. I am assuming that he means participating in a way the instructor values and has included in the course policies, but even if he means participation more generally as the student taking an active role in her or his education, then the conclusion is still the same. Attendance is a necessary precondition for participation. Not every student "actively" pursues an education, but the possibility for even starting to do so rests on the student being in class. And since I believe so strongly in the importance of taking an active role in one's education, I feel compelled to require attendance.

But maybe I shouldn't, as I also believe, like Waterhouse, in the value of choice, student choice, regardless of how much money is involved. I even believe in the value of wrong choices, but I feel pretty strongly about not facilitating the wrong choice by not being more active myself. I don't intend to be punitive, but I can certainly see how it looks that way to some.

Nor do I want the choices of the few to negatively affect the educational experiences of the many. Waterhouse's argument has an individual bent to it, meaning he is mostly looking at the issue as it affects individual students. However, education is about more than the individual, which makes it awfully hard for me, at least, to evaluate students solely "based on an individual basis." What I mean is that attendance allows students to participate not only in their own education but also in the education experiences of those around them. I won't trot out the idea of "community" to support this point because I think it's fairly obvious. As my current and former students know, what my students learn in my classes depends largely on if and how they participate. If education is about more than delivering and receiving information, and I believe it is, then points of contact in the classroom become especially important for everyone involved. And this is, in the end, the reason why I continue to wrestle with the question.

And, by way of conclusion, I want to raise the possibility that maybe the reason an instructor came down pretty hard on Mr. Waterhouse recently when he was "pukin'" was not because he or she was being vindictive, but because he or she felt his absence, his comments and responses to other students not being there, was negatively affecting his classmates.

-English Professor Andy Alexander

Paris Hilton looks great on fire

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

Celebrities.

If there were ever a race of human beings that deserved to be locked in a freezer and slowly tortured to death by nailgun-wielding penguins, it would be them.

Nothing would thrill me more than to see all of the Paris Hiltons and Tom Cruises of the world tossed into a blender, then soaked in mayonnaise and fed to French-Canadians.

Oh Canada. You know I love ya.

All joking aside, what exactly is the fetish with celebrities? Why does our culture care whether or not Lindsay Lohan is snorting lines of coke off of Ronald McDonald's asscrack?

I'll tell you why - because Americans love fire.

Think about it. You walk by a burning building and notice Pamela Anderson screaming for help from a seventh-story window.

What do you do?

Now there are two types of people on this planet. One type will call the fire brigade and try to lend a helping hand, maybe play Superman for a day.

The other will run to the nearest convenience store and pick up a disposable camera and a bag of marshmallows.

Now it's just a theory of mine, but I'm willing to bet that most of you would opt for the marshmallows.

And why wouldn't you? Trying to help someone in need puts you at unnecessary risk. And really, what's in it for you anyway?

Fifteen minutes of fame? Screw that.

Besides, I got a good buzz going, and it's almost time for Vanilla Ice to square off against Gary Coleman on "Celebrity Boxing."

But that entire concept explains our unwavering love for celebrities. We love to set fire to people's lives, watching overpaid drama kings and queens get thrown into rehab or take a dirt nap. It gets us off.

Take this joke for example:

What does Anna Nicole Smith and my neighbor's cats have in common? Give up? They're both infested with worms! Mwu-hah hah!

Now I'm sure someone out there is bound to email me and complain about how

I'm going to spend an eternity in hell cleaning Hitler's underoos with a toothbrush for that one, but I'm willing to take that risk to make a point.

Let's be honest, I'm willing to bet many of you found that joke clever. Hell, you might have even laughed up your Doritos for all I know.

The point is, while many of you may have taken great offense, most of you probably got your rocks off on it.

You're all sick and demented - but so am I.

Maybe that's why our species is so doomed to destroy itself; we have a natural urge to feed off of the suffering of others. Daily celebrity drama is a drug that keeps us lit, allowing us to ignore the fact that we are all entirely miserable with our own lives.

I mean what's the use in worrying about your own taxes when you have Michael Jackson finger-painting with preschoolers on "Good Morning America"?

Maybe I'm being overly dramatic. Maybe I'm thinking way too much into this whole celebrity thing.

Or maybe we're all screwed.

That's the worst part, too. Like Hilary Clinton's presidential chances, there isn't a hope in hell for any of us. We're all going to continue to watch reality TV, read "People," and download the latest celebrity sex tape.

I don't care if Britney Spears shaved her head and is wolfing down gallons of Crisco, and I don't care if Suri Cruise is actually one of Jim Henson's aborted Muppets.

And yet here I am, writing up this entire editorial about celebrities. I wouldn't write about them if I didn't care - would I?

George Carlin once said, "the planet is fine, the people are f---."

Amen, brother. Amen.

Winter Break Abroad

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ARIEL DELANEY

A view of the Madre de Dios river in Peru.

Trip bolsters sisterly love

By Ariel Delaney
Spartan Staff

I vowed to go back to Peru eventually, but I never expected to return so soon.

When I was asked to chaperone my brother's trip there I jumped at the chance. Of course, that meant missing classes and pushing back responsibilities, but it was very worth it to see my brother happy.

Those who know me understand how much I love my brother, Mahamed also known as Max. He was adopted from Somalia, also called the horn of Africa, 11 years ago. His entire family perished in a famine and his age was unknown when he was found.

After a slew of doctors looked over him it was determined that he was between the ages of 4 and 7. We rounded up. He considers himself very lucky and still has faith in his country even though many don't.

I consider myself lucky because I have such a wonderful brother who is a survivor. As I have told him many times before, he is my inspiration.

With help from some amazing people, he was able to attend The Gailer School for four years. This school is very small and boasts a unique learning environment. Every year this school goes on a trip, which they call living and learning, where they do community service. Each person raises money for they trip. We all did. When I had time, I helped at the teddy bear factory and sold whatever they were offering.

It was all worth it for two years, then something bad happened.

After his health forms were turned in, the organizers of the trip saw that he has limited lung capacity. They sent him for a free lung capacity test at UVM to see how he would do. I was devastated when my nana told me that he failed twice.

Mahamed had tuberculosis while in Somalia and has one great lung and about 20% of the other. The trip included going to Cusco which is 11,300 feet.

The doctor said that it would be like the equivalent of a normal person on the top of Mount Everest. He was devastated when he found out and so soon before the trip. I received word that he was very depressed about it.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ARIEL DELANEY

Mahamed and Ariel Delaney spend quality sibling time in Peru.

His teacher then called me four days later. She said that she still wanted Mahamed to go, but with another person who knew him and knew Spanish and could stay with him. She also told me that an anonymous person had donated a lot of money for it to be possible.

I was hesitant to go because I was worried how he would feel not being with his group for more that half of the trip. After a family meeting, we called at 5:45 p.m., before the 6 p.m. deadline a week and a half before the trip, to say yes.

At the last meeting before the trip, I almost cried. I hadn't seen Max so happy in such along time that it made my heart burst.

So I prepared to return to Peru, just weeks after coming back from a semester there. And not just for Mahamed, but to also see a very ill person I had met before. I packed up and ran home for about a day then my brother and I began our trip.

Being with 12 teenagers for days is scary. Besides that, I kept getting the "don't embarrass me Ariel" look as I told my brother to brush his teeth.

The majority of the time, Mahamed and I spent in Puerto Maldonado, a town that has the river Madre de Dios running through it, Mother of God. The river connects to Bolivia and Brazil at the tri border. It is in the rainforest, where there are many problems -- trees being cut down and the extinction of natural species and habitats are just a few.

Since we wouldn't be going to Cusco, Max and I had to find a community service project. With him wanting to study ecology, I figured we could incorporate that into it. We went to the National Reserve and Park of Tambopata, which has 13,000 species of everything!(animals flora and fauna)

Our service began by doing a conservation-message puppet show in Spanish to local children with some of the Reserve workers. Then we went to "el Bosque de los niños," the children's forest, where any child from the area can go and learn about the trees and animals in the rainforest.

Antonio, a park ranger there, brought us on a seven-hour trail-cleaning project where we also learned about medicinal plants and trees. We drank water from a paca tree, which is good for the heart.

After that we took a four-hour boat ride to the Control Point of San Antonio to meet and complete our third project. We felt really cool in the boat as Antonio waved to everyone we passed including the three indigenous communities. Upon arrival, Mahamed and I took a tour. A few solar panels were on the grounds, along with a lot vegetables. The park rangers live there for 20 days, then return to Maldonado for an eight-day rest.

Their job is to protect the rainforest from outsiders destroying it. They do rounds three times a day in the huge 125-acre part that they protect. Only locals are allowed to enter without permission. Max said it was very inspiring to see that they cared so much and that the Peruvian people realized that they needed to protect their resources.

Across the river was Bolivia, which we entered the next morning to cut bananas offered by locals. We left at 4:30 a.m. in boat the next morning to see the clay licks where the enormous parrots lick salt. After clearing the area surrounding the point, Max and I returned in the boat to Maldonado to meet the group in Lima.

We were exhausted! Max said it was the first time he had seen a parrot outside of a PetsMart and the head park ranger Victor said that that's how it is supposed to be. I smiled because I had heard Max say that before. We woke up to the sound of howler and squirrel monkeys, not to mention the toucans. It was amazing to be around it all.

Max said he wanted to return to the station, possibly to study there when he is in college. He loved it and enjoyed hanging with the rangers. We left and went to Lima to visit the very sick person I spoke about. The group was there and we all went through Lima wearily. Mahamed then met my host family. They liked him a lot.

I took him to all my old hangouts. At the breakfast table the next morning before we were to return, I asked Max if he was happy he went he said yes -- and that he was even happier that I could come with him.

Those are the moments that I live for. I often don't get to spend much time with him. We were lucky. This year is a big transition year as we will be separating from each other. He is going to college and I will be volunteering overseas, but I know that the memories we have from those 11 days will be with us forever. I know that he knows how much I love him.

Italy trip proves to be lesson in culture

PHOTO BY DAWSON RASPUZZI

The Colosseum in Rome.

By Dawson Raspuzzi
Spartan Editor

Last week I was able take a trip through a Lyndon State College program touring Italy and Greece where I saw all of the historical sights in the regions such as the David, Coloseum, Sistine Chapel, Parthenon and many many others.

Upon finishing the 10-day trip of infamous historical sights and exploring the streets of some of the most beautiful cities in the world, the things I remember clearest are the unique differences in their cultures compared to ours.

Some of the differences I was prepared for, like pickpockets every 20 steps trying to catch tourists' attention while another stripped them of their valuables, and the variety of food in Italy consisting of pasta, pizza, olive oil and more olive oil.

Other differences came as more of a surprise to me.

The cars, particularly in Rome, were the size of many go-carts I've seen over here.

Not only was the tiny size of them unique, but over half of the vehicles I saw on my trip were Mercedes.

I'm not just talking about the family cars either, I mean all vehicles including dump trucks, taxis, buses, and even police and ambulances.

Even with the narrow roads in each city, the drivers over there were the worst I've ever seen - and I've driven in Boston.

After crossing the street just once in Sorrento (which I later heard is notorious for bad drivers) I decided to take my chance trailing the road to see if it ever ended so I could get back to the other side rather than try crossing it again.

Another major difference is how casual sex and the naked body are viewed over there.

In Greece, we turned on a TV in the hotel room to a woman in almost nothing dancing around in a way that made MTV music videos look like wholesome family entertainment.

Without any volume I immediately assumed it was a music video or an adult channel, later to find out it was just a commercial for perfume.

The naked body could also be found on billboards, posters, pictures and postcards at every shop mixed in with replicas of ancient pottery and chocolate bars.

In the streets, beautiful Italian music could be heard at every popular destination where people played different wind and string instruments.

Bars were not filled with people trying to get as drunk as possible like many are here, but instead were filled with people watching soccer on TV and having simple conversations. It reminded me of coffee shops over here.

The bars were really more like stores, because alcohol was just one of many things being sold along with a huge variety of deserts, coffee, magazines and other items that are generally found in small convenient stores here.

Other differences include the appreciation for art that everyone had, the fact that every overweight person I saw was an American tourist, and that most of them understood English although most English speaking people wouldn't understand them.

The most annoying difference was the fact that public restrooms more often then not cost money to use.

But while the differences were numerous, there were similarities too -- like the trash and graffiti that lined the streets of many big cities.

And of course, no matter how far one travels, there is one consistency that America brings to each large city across the world, the golden arches and the man with the curly red hair. There's even one located directly across from the Pantheon in Rome.

Joanna Doolan

Fresh Perspectives

Life can be scary

Every time I watch the news, or turn on an emotional show such as Law and Order SVU, I get scared of stepping out of my room.

The world is so messed up, how did we get this way?

Rapists, murderers, crazies, pedophiles. They are among us.

We are them, or could be them .

What causes a person to commit such heinous crimes?

It doesn't just happen. Most of the time, horrible behavior is blamed on family history or bad experiences.

Where did the bad behavior come from?

It all started somewhere of course, or this truly is the nature of man.

What does this have to do with me you ask? And why do you care?

I can't even walk alone at night back to my dorm without having a panic attack.

I lose my breath and tighten my chest.

I practically run like an idiot while hyperventilating.

I hate being paranoid. No one wants to stay inside forever, but hey it's safe.

I know we have campus security, yet we also have police officers and do they always protect us?

It isn't possible to keep everyone safe.

Yet there is this idealized society we pretend to have in which our country isn't screwed up.

Bull.

Anything can happen at any moment.

Rape can happen to you, murder can happen to your friends.

So why do so many people live in a fantasy world?

I should learn to protect myself. I hear from all my friends that I could probably kick anyone's ass who tried to come after me.

Somehow I don't believe it. Even if I was a black belt in karate I wouldn't feel safe.

I'll never feel safe.

Maybe TV shows are too true to real life.

What ever happened to Leave it to Beaver and Little House on the Prairie?

Or kids shows like Boy Meets World, which talked about stupid adolescent problems like not being asked to a dance by the person you have a crush on?

Instead we get teen shows such as Degrassi, in which teenage girls are pregnant, students get stabbed and are diagnosed with STDs. Criminal dramas depict murder and rape investigations.

Is it human nature to want to watch the waste of our society?

Sure there is great entertainment value, but sometimes it hits way too close to home.

Fantasy and false reality are much more appealing to me.

I admit I indulge in drama shows, though every time I watch them I hurt a little. This stuff actually happens.

I don't know what made me think of this, or why I decided it would be a good topic for a column.

But I'm beginning to realize the fantasy world I put myself in when I was younger is definitely not the one I'm going into.

There are too many tough decisions, too many obstacles.

And when you think of the bad in the world, you wonder why the hell you even bother to try to succeed in it.

This rat race isn't worth the trouble, yet we run on our little wheels all day trying to get somewhere.

The usual and unusual pets

By Jacqueline Borelli
Spartan Staff

Sometimes students need a friend. And I'm not just talking about anybody, I'm talking about a creature so friendly you'll never be lonely again. I'm talking about pets.

Castleton State College students don't just have cats and dogs. There are snakes, fish, rabbits and other creepy crawler lurking through apartments in the community.

The regulars

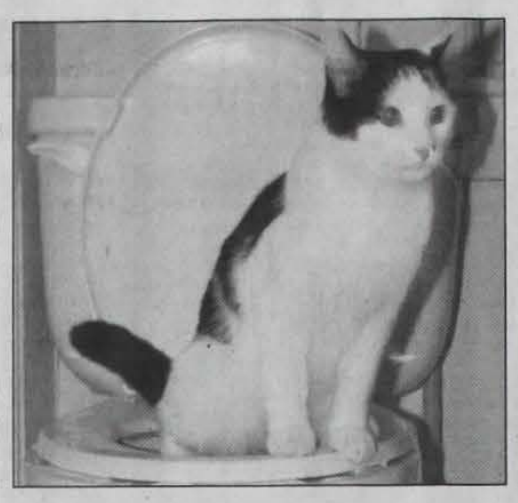
Sunny days can be filled with students walking their four legged friends. One student you may see is senior Kelly O'Brien walking many dogs, including her personal pal, Bailey.

"I have had Bailey for 12 years, but he has been with me up in Vermont for the past 3 1/2 years," said O'Brien.

O'Brien talks about how friendly Bailey is and how happy he is when she walks in from a long day of school. Bad days are forgotten when the big brown dog greets her with a big smile.

"I also love waking up to kisses from his big face," said O'Brien.

Bailey is very loyal to O'Brien and she talks about how he always needs to know what she is doing. Even if is whining, she wouldn't change anything about him.



PHOTOS BY EVA KANE LEENMAN AND JAQUELINE BORELLI

Left: Zebby, owned by Eva Leenman, is toilet trained. Right: Pete Lordan holds his snake pet.

Erik Ellis, a sophomore, recently acquired a cat from the Rutland Human Society. A pet he just couldn't be without.

"We went to the Human Society and looked for the goofiest cat. We saw this one cat, it made us laugh, so we had to have it," said Ellis.

The cat, whose first name was Lolly, also goes by the ChronicKilla, Loopy Lopez, and Crazy-Eyes Mcgraw.

Ellis likes how the eyes pop out of his cat's head and how much his cat repeatedly sneezes due to his upper respiratory infection.

"The cat takes life at a leisurely pace," said Ellis, watching the cat wonder from room to room throughout the house.

Ellis is proud of his cat and enjoys how much she has adjusted to the college life.

The unusual

Senior, Pete Lordan, has quite the interesting pet in his apartment. On the floor, against the wall, is an aquarium. At first glance there is nothing there. Lordan removes the lids picks up a rock and there it is. Dante, a python ball.

"I always liked reptiles, but my dad was afraid of snakes," said Lordan.

Lordan bought Dante about two years ago and said the snake is about 5 years-old. He said thesnake is 5-feet and he probably won't get any longer than that, but will bulk up.

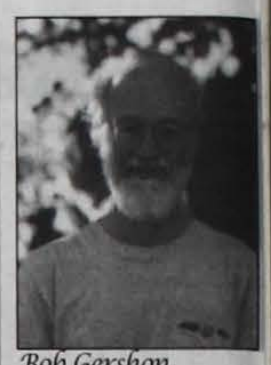
"He is so simple and doesn't complain," said Lordan. Watching him eat is one of the coolest things he does, considering he doesn't move around a whole lot, Lordan said.

He said the reason snakes don't move much is to conserve as much energy as possible.

Dante rests on his owner's arms, twisting up in maneuvers the Olympic gymnasts wouldn't do. Lordan said he always holds his snake when he is out because he tries to get into dark areas.

"He'll weave into the couch and it's a real pain to get him out," said Lordan, as he sternly lets Dante know who's the boss.

Lordan always liked reptiles and once had an iguana as well as other reptiles. He then said as long as they have food and water, they're happy.



Bob Gershon

Faculty Column

Contrary to depicitions of the 60s as an era of general student discontent and protest, few of my friends and classmates who were eligible to be drafted to serve in Vietnam took much notice of the political situation that began and perpetuated that war.

So a few years later when the war was over and I began to teach college students, I was not overly dismayed that they lacked much sense of how politics affected their lives and how they could in turn, if they organized, affect political decisions.

However, not long after I got to Castleton a new administration, helmed, as many faculty saw it, by an incarnation of Attila the Hun, began to change the nature of the college. (e.g. he attempted to limit tenure, the result of which, he told me at a public meeting, would be that no matter how hard I tried or how much I succeeded I would be gone in five years.)

While many of us faculty responded as well as we could individually and through our union, it seemed we had little useful support.

So I was both surprised and delighted when a group of students, many in my own program, began to take interest.

They investigated the college and system's problems, they wrote persuasively in the Spartan and spoke on WIUV, some talked to their home legislators, and finally, they organized rallies and protests.

While I encourgaged them to an extent-I thought it was great that they were taking a stand--I gave them my opinion only when asked.

I felt it was not my role to try to get them to think as I did. Turns out they thought that way anyhow.

And it turns out that , while faculty took something of a beating, a combined effort of faculty, supporters, and concerned students helped us keep most of the personal attention to teaching we loved about Castleton.

One of our losses, though, was the termination of a popular, and to most students and faculty excellent, second year communication teacher.

At a hearing on the grievance he filed, one of the student activists, by then a reporter for the Rutland Herald, told me the college president had used me as an example that he was not pressing a political agenda in firing the teacher.

He didn't fire Gershon, he said, and he organized all those protests. My former student said, had he not been a reporter, he would have stood up and yelled, "he's lying! I organized those protests!"

I'm still in touch with many of those early protesters.

he reporter went on to be an assistant city editor at the Boston Globe, others have become active citizens in their own communities from Boston to California.

I think they look back on their time at Castleton as one where they learned more than they'd expected. They found out that they had a voice and that voice counted.

E-mail: Is it a necessary evil?

By Tony Trombetta
Spartan Staff

If you've recently lost a leather pen case or you're interested in what's going on at Castleton today, you most certainly are thanking the good Lord for e-mail.

Otherwise, you might feel as if your campus e-mail account is being constantly flooded with junk.

Many students throughout the Castleton community complain that they receive way too much junk e-mail. The majority of the e-mails they receive are from people they don't know, pertaining to subjects they have no interest in.

Jonathan Czar, network administrator for Castleton State College, is essentially the lord of CSC e-mail.

"We want students to know what's going on here on campus," Czar said. "The alternative is you sit in your room playing video games."

Czar is the guy who controls the format and everyday upkeep of the Castleton Internet system. Complaints about the system generally go straight to him.

Czar had one experience with a student that really stuck out. The student was ranting and raving about e-mail. Two weeks later the same student sent out an e-mail to everyone at Castleton informing them that he would be starring in a one-man play.

"The kid went from being really nasty to 'I want everybody to know about my thing,"' Czar said.

According to Czar, the campus policy is that everybody associated with CSC is required to be on a distribution list so they can be informed about campus information. And the information distributed needs to be related to a campus issue or club.

However, sometimes it is just too much.

Nick Louras, a freshman at Castleton, echoes the sentiments of many who are disenchanted with the e-mail system.

"I get so much crap that it gets kind of annoying when I have to sit down and check my e-mail," Louras said. "The school should have something that filters out all of the junk mail."

And don't think that students are the only ones who notice all of the e-mail.

Drennan Spitzer, English professor at Castleton, summed up the feeling of many around campus with only a few words.

"It's so easy that we all shoot off e-mails and we don't consider if people really need them," she said.

Dave Blow, a journalism professor at Castleton, receives the same e-mails that Spitzer, Louras and everyone else on campus receives, on top of the questions and concerns from students. He acknowledges the fact that e-mail is definitely a necessary evil these days.

"I feel like I'm a slave to e-mail," he said. "But I have so many students e-mailing questions etc. and I want to be attentive to their needs."

While many get perturbed by logging into their e-mail account and constantly finding those pesky "lost and found" messages, the lost item does in fact belong to someone.

"Everybody hates getting those until they lose their I-pod," Czar said.

PHOTOS BY COURTNEY GILMAN

Old and young untied by the '50s

By Courtney Gilman
Spartan Contributor

When you walk up the concrete steps lit by the red neon sign and push open the door, you walk into another world. The bar stools, red booth seats, and pies laying on the long counters turn a 1980's kid into a 1950's kid.

The smiling faces of Theo Priest, and Castleton State College's own Katelynn LaDuke and Jackie Borelli, might greet you at the door. And even though Priest has at least five decades on the students, Birdseye Diner brings them together, along with many town regulars like Bill Parled.

Parled has been coming to Birdseye five times a week for 10 years.

"It saves on cooking," he says with a big grin.

He then turns around on his bar stool and looks out the tiny rectangular window.

"Just checking on my dog, he never takes his eyes off me when I'm in here," he said.

Coincidentally, local entrepreneur John Rehlen has owned the Birdseye Diner for 10 years now. And he has no regrets about buying it.

"I enjoy the business. I get the chance to talk with people from the community, the college, and tourists," Rehlen said. "It's a happy place. The food is good, it's a nice meeting place, the prices are reasonable. I think people like the diner as a structure."

There has been a diner in that location since the 1940's, but the name has changed over the years.

Originally known as the Birdseye Diner, it has been called Jim's Diner, named for Jim Keith, and TJ's Diner, when Tim and Jean Hayes were running it. Jean Hayes continues to be a part of the Birdseye working family today.

Borelli, a senior, has been working at Birdseye for three and a half years now.

"It's close to home and my friends come to see me," she said.

Priest and Parled both agree that it's the good food and the socialization that brings college students and retired elders together in the once mobile Airstream trailer.

And regarding the food, Borelli can rattle off the daily specials by heart.

"Monday it's chicken and biscuits, Tuesday is pot roast, Wednesday is the leftovers ..." she said, trailing off.

But it hasn't all been fun for diner waitresses like Borelli, who went on to detail the stresses of the job.

"I quit for one month; I had a nervous breakdown," Borelli said laughing. "I had nightmares. The food would be across the street, and I'd have to cross the street to bring the food over. Because it's a diner, it was stressful and fast paced!"

While the grease sizzles from the kitchen and Chubby Checker's "The Twist" plays from the speakers, Priest talked about why she still enjoys waiting tables after all these years.

"I love working with people. It's never dull and I learn something new every day," she said.

And for parting words of wisdom, Borelli reminds that the waitresses aren't simply there for fun.

"Don't be afraid to tip 20 percent!" she said with a wide smile.

SOUNDING OFF

all your SOUNDINGS information IN ONE SPOT

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Was it a success? A flop? Please contact a Soundings instructor or Spartan advisor David Blow to share your thoughts.

EVENT COUNTDOWN

12 LEFT

QUOTABLE LINES:

Groovelily

Question--Groovelily breaks down many traditional barriers between types of music and between music and theatre. Explain how this blending of forms does or does not work.

"Groovelily are right up there, in my opinion, with "rock-opera" sensations such as The Who, Pink Floyd, Queen, and Meatloaf. I wish Groovelily success!" Dermot Hanna

While I appreciate Groovelily's voices, their "blending of forms" is not as successful as I had hoped for. I expected the performers to perform more theater as they played. Each of their songs has a story, but all songs do. Explaining the background of the song and telling the audience that you "play" this character does not make it theater.--Nicole McAllister

The Princely Players

Question: "Tonight's performance by the Princely Players expressed the long and on-going struggle for freedom by Africans in America. In what ways can such a struggle positively and negatively affect people?"

An epic struggle like the one blacks went through for civil justice brings a culture closer together. A history with strife is a strong history. A struggle is however a painful process that leaves lasting scars. – Andrew Eames

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE CANNOT QUOTE YOU UNLESS YOU CHECK THE BOX AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR SOUNDINGS' CARD THAT GRANTS US PERMISSION.

COMING UP NEXT:

Environmental Concerns
TONIGHT--MARCH 7TH, 7:00 PM IN GLENBROOK GYM, THE KEYSTONE EVENT
An Inconvenient Truth and discussion afterwards. Global warming, is it real or just hype? Watch the movie and decide for yourself. This event can be worth two Soundings credits if you attend both parts; however, to get the credit for the discussion you must also attend the film.

Social Concerns
MARCH 15TH, 12:30 P.M. (N-PERIOD), BLACK SCIENCE, MICHELLE KENNEDY, WITHOUT A NET
Do you think homelessness is just for the uneducated, the poor, the jobless? Wrong. Michelle Kennedy was educated, middle-class, and working, but she and her three children still ended up living in her car. Come hear her story; it may open your eyes.

Brick Box unveils 'Groove Mountain State'

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

Having a gastrointestinal disorder sucks hardcore.

The long awaited premiere of the Video Documentary Class film, 'Groove Mountain State' made me really nervous.

It is never a good thing when I become nervous. I experience extreme stomach discomfort that makes me run to the nearest restroom, yet, this night it was definitely worth going through the agony.

There were many reasons why I was nervous walking into the Brick Box, the new lounge located at the Paramount Theatre, on Feb 22.

First, I didn't know what to expect. I had never been to the Brick Box before and more importantly this was our first premiere. What if people didn't like the film?

Director Adrian Hill was very excited.

"This is going to be cool, saw it on the big screen tuning the color, going to be (freaking) awesome," Hill said.

It was great having our film premiered at such a great place. One moviegoer who brought his guitar was playing music as we sat waiting for the film to begin. He also happens to be a fan of the film.

"Let's all watch Adrian's movie, it's great. I watch it at least once a week," Ed Young said as he gave up trying to play Pink Floyd's 'Wish You Were Here.'

I love how the Brick Box is designed. The screen is huge. It takes up the majority of the back wall and the room fits probably 75 people. Also, the tables were great. They had the warm glow of candlelight and a small bowl of popcorn.

These tables made me feel a sense of nostalgia. The chic, black cabaret tables had a striking resemblance to the tables I helped construct in my technical theatre class in high school for the Havana scene in 'Guys and Dolls.'

Eric Mallette, a fellow Otter Valley Theatre alumnus, runs the Brick Box, whose movie series will continue every other Thursday starting March 22.

"What a great way to kick start what is sure to be an exciting new addition to the already wildly popular Brick Box schedule," said Mallette, project manager at the Paramount Theatre.

The documentary is a film about the Rutland county music scene focusing on two major concepts: Is Rutland living in the shadow of Burlington?

And is there a need for more venues in Rutland?

'Groove Mountain State' features music from artists Jeff Poremski, Casey Grant, the Jim Gilmour Band, Jonathan Lorentz, Rip Jackson, DownPlay, Duane Carleton, The Dubois and Twiddle.

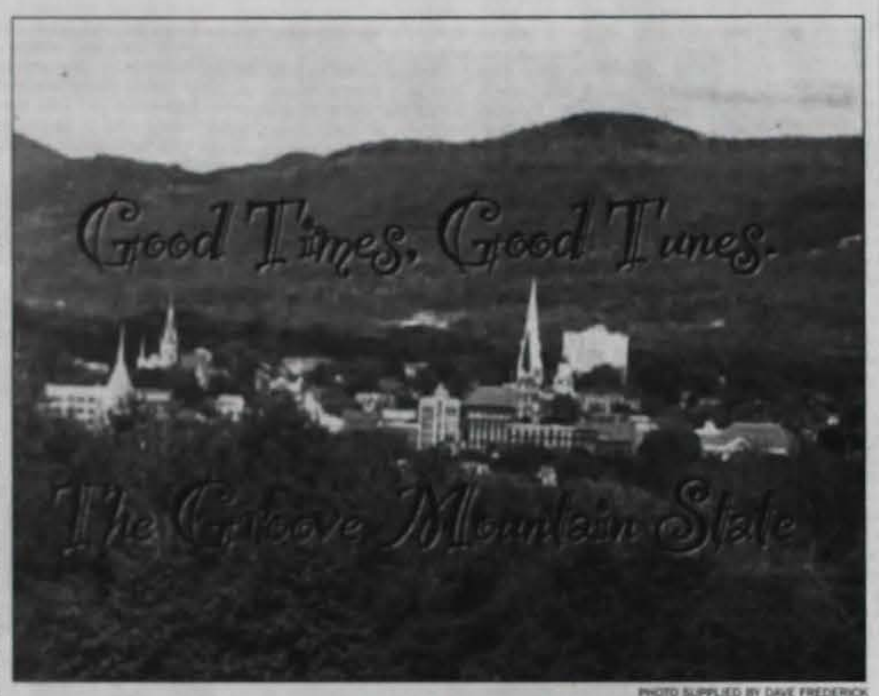


PHOTO SUPPLIED BY DAVE FREDERICK

A view of Rutland is the backdrop for student documentary on the music scene in the Rutland region.

Jeff Poremski and Casey Grant are two musicians who have been playing in the Rutland area for about 20 years and work at Be Music. These two are like the hired guns of the Rutland music scene. They are not in any certain band, per say, but have an open invitation to play with anyone.

Jim Gilmour and his band would easily be classified under the folk, folk-rock category of music. Jim Gilmour is also the owner of South View Arts recording studio in Middletown Springs, Vt.

Jonathan Lorentz, a professor of music here at Castleton, is a jazz musician who plays often at the Iron Lantern in Castleton.

"I just want to help get this ball rolling and get people excited about going out and seeing live music," Lorentz said referring to music played at the Iron Lantern.

Rip Jackson is a harpsichordist and conductor at Grace Congregational Church.

Jackson performs all forms of music, but has a passion for classical and Broadway.

DownPlay is a struggling up and coming metal band out of Wallingford. CJ's voice is brutal, Fred is a crazy drummer, Josh and Lucien are lightning fast guitarists and Chris can drop some seriously badass bass lines. Really this band kicks it.

"This was awesome; I didn't know this place existed." CJ said of the Brick Box. "Maybe, we can play a show here."

Duane Carleton is a legend in his own right.

Carleton has been playing music locally for about 30 years. He lays Americana, but his music also has elements of folk and country.

"Some of the bands I've been in over the years are Tin Pan Alley, The Huge Members, The Sander Wright Band and currently my own band, Duane Carleton and the Backwoods Messiahs," he said.

The Dubois' are quite obscure. You can only really judge the band after you hear them. Their songs will make you laugh and the may even make you cry.

"I took a hundred shits today and is my ass tender, like veal, I took a hundred shits today," as an example.

The documentary concludes with Castleton's own Twiddle, a progressive funk reggae band. That's right, they are not a jam band.

"No, I don't think we're a jam band. Calling yourself a jam band is like shooting yourself in the foot," said Mihali Savoulidis, vocalist for Twiddle.

I learned a lot helping to produce 'Groove Mountain State,' this past fall. Making this film definitely helped better my camera and editing skills.

I remember Hill and myself being immersed in the editing process. For about two weeks straight we would enter the TV Studio around 4 p.m. and finish working around 3 a.m.

I also learned that producing and directing a documentary really isn't all that hard to do.

The job requires primarily the same set of skills used in constructing a newspaper story.

You start by deciding what the story is going to be about and whom you're going to interview. After that you go out and interview various sources asking the five W's: who, what, when, where, why and sometimes how.

The primary difference between documentary filmmaking and writing a newspaper story is the equipment used to record events.

When filming documentary you have a video camera, which makes it easier to document what happened.

"Once you press the record button you never stop, the tape is always rolling, if not you might miss something," Hill said at the DownPlay shoot.

Theater student impresses judges

Shawn Dayton

By Mike DiFronzo
Spartan Contributor

Castleton State College student Shawn Dayton was named one of the top 16 actors competing in all of New England in a recent annual acting festival.

The festival, the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), takes place in eight regions throughout the country, and college students nationwide compete in all areas of theater ranging from acting and directing to writing and make-up design.

In the New England chapter of the festival, nearly 800 students competed in all areas, and of those, 200 competed in the area of acting to win the Irene Ryan Scholarship and a chance to study theater abroad in London for one year.

Of the 200 acting students, the judges eliminate all but 16 for the final round. Dayton made that elite final round.

Dayton, a senior majoring in theater, has been very involved with the school's dramatic arts programs for four years. You may have seen him as Larry in "Minnesota Moon," Deputy Governor Danforth in "The Crucible" and Captain of Inquisition in "Man of la Mancha."

Dayton was scouted for the festival during one of his productions, and this is his second time competing in it - although he has attended four times.

Though this is an honor and a big personal accomplishment, Dayton isn't letting it get to his head.

"It's not like winning this festival is about 'Oh hey, I'm better than you'," he said.

Dayton said it's more for personal growth, and theater department head Harry McEnerny agrees.

"This is a great networking opportunity," McEnerny said. "Shawn's going to be out there sometime in his career and maybe he'll run into someone [from the festival]."

Also noteworthy from this year's competitors, another Castleton senior, James Lorentz, also impressed judges and will be going to Washington D.C. to compete as a play critic.

Unfortunately for him, the critics institution of the festival does not award a scholarship.

Look for Dayton in the upcoming performance of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" as Malvolio, which will take place toward the end of this month.

"I'd encourage everyone to come check out the shows," he said. "And if you're interested in doing theater, come on down and get involved. You don't have to be a theater major to be a part of our department."

REVIEWS

AUDIO

Static X "Cannibal'

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

Are you a cannibal? Could you eat another human being?

Speed metal band Static X is set to release its fifth album on April 3, an album titled 'Cannibal.'

Members of Static X first head-banged their way into the metal world in 1999 with the release of their debut album 'Wisconsin Deathtrip.' Singles of the album included 'Push it' and 'I'm with Stupid,' which helped make the album go platinum.

In May 2001, the band released its second hit record 'Machine.' I became a fan of Static X after watching the music video for 'Black and White.' The song was the first single released off the album and topped the charts at #35.

The band's third album titled 'Shadow Zone' changed my perspective of the band.

I can recall the album coming into the WIUV when it was released in October 2003. I was very excited, only to find I only liked one song 'Destroy All,' which also happened to be featured on the 'Need for Speed: Underground' soundtrack.

Static X's fourth album, 'Start a War,' saw minimal success. To be honest, I actually never knew the album was released until recently; yet, when it came to producing the soundtrack for 'Need For Speed: Most Wanted,' Static X was not forgotten.

Static X has a pretty unique sound. I've never been to a Static X show, but the sound to the music gives you that dark rave feel. People dancing like lunatics in the dark underbelly of the city to techno-metal music. Not to mention, Wayne Static has a very unusual voice.

The first single off the new album, 'Forty Ways,' has fast techno beat that reminds me of a song you'd hear in a martial arts film during a crazy fight to the death. About halfway through the song there is a sick little guitar solo. This song is definitely a favorite of mine.

The 'Cannibal' EP features two other songs from the upcoming album titled 'Cannibal' and 'No Submission.'

Static X can easily be linked in with other Industrial speed metal bands like Rammstein, Powerman 5000 and Orgy.

VIDEO

The Hitchhiker: Real Film Noir

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

The Hitchhiker is a film noir movie made by the low budget production company RKO Radio Pictures. The Hitchhiker is based on true events so it could even happen to you! At least that's what we're told in the opening sequence. The Hitchhiker is about two young men who pick up a psychotic murderer disguised as a hitchhiker.

When RKO Radio Pictures makes a film noir movie, they make it a real film noir. I say this because when it comes to making a film noir you want to show the rough, gritty, darker side of life. When you have a low budget you can't afford fancy equipment or big set with expensive effects.

You are made to work with what you have and in turn the movie has a look that's more real. The sets are real and the story is simple, to the point that you keep watching as with the Hitchhiker.

The Hitchhiker consists of three men trying to survive while the police continually get closer to their trail. The patience of each of the men grows shorter and shorter as the stress builds up and the complications get worse and occur more often.

With the lower budget equipment, the look of the film is not a shiny Hollywood movie but looks at times like documentary footage. To achieve these "special" moments, the cinematographer takes the camera off its tripod and onto his shoulder, giving it a documentary or cinema verite look.

It would have been nice to see more of these shots, to help give it a special look for when it was made, but that will come in about seven years later.

The actual screen size of this film is smaller than your standard movie which gives it a look that you are watching it in the theater or your watching old achieved footage.

Ida Lupino, the first film noir director, helped make this film different than the other film noir movies. She was also the only female director of her time who directed 30 more films and TV show episodes until the late 60's. She definitely showed a good eye for directing actors, choosing locations (the isolated desert) and telling a gripping story.

There is no use of subtitles in the scenes where a foreign language is being spoken. The interesting part is that you don't even need them since you know what's going on with the visual clues.

It makes you feel like you are actually there and you don't even have a translator. It's a nice little touch whether on purpose or because of forgetfulness. It was nice to see some different like that.

The Hitchhiker is definitely for those film noir or crime movie fans. It was made with a clear picture in mind of what a film noir should look like, achieving that goal with great success.

The director took advantage of what they had to go around what they didn't have. If you have never seen a film noir, this would be a good place to start.

Jumps

Global warming: not fiction anymore

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

: GREEN
From page 1

I think we should try and expand it, maybe, to outside of campus, maybe into the community" he said as he carried a bulging garbage bag of bottles to his car. "I'm actually going to get rid of these right now, recycle them down at the store. I figure it's the very least I can do, help out a little."

While there are no plans to move the program outside of the school, some students think its good enough to start right here.

"It gets students involved with something that really matters," said Lene Ballard, a junior and coordinator of Green Monday, the recycling program where on Monday's students go around with student athletes, clubs and faculty and staff to collect recyclables.

"In two more years, once the sophomores this year are seniors, everyone in the school will have recycled," she said, beaming. "That's the plan, that's what we're doing."

While the climate report states with such certainty that the vast majority of reasons for global warming stem directly from human beings, some still warn that we should err on the side of caution.

"The one thing about climate is that it's always changing," said Jeremy Davis, manager and senior meteorologist at North Country Weather, a private weather company in Glens Falls, N.Y.

He says that unpredictable phenomena, such as a large volcanic eruption (which hasn't happened in years) can lower the Earth's temperature 2 to 3 degrees lower than it is now. Higher temps in the arctic can also produce larger amounts of snowfall in other areas of the world. The climate is changing, but as Davis puts it "The Earth's been heating up since the last Ice Age."

Davis, however, by no means thinks that people shouldn't be working to help change things.

"But should we at least do things to try and mitigate (global warming)? Definitely. In terms of doing stuff to help out the environment, absolutely," he said.

To people who thought that the jury was still out when it came to the science of global warming, a blow has been dealt. For the first time in history the climate report scientists have come back with an unequivocal study, with proof that humans are damaging to the environment. While the study seems dire, there is hope: the report does say that, with prompt and widespread action the warming can be substantially slowed.

To end the interview, Derby told a story about a conference he went to that opened his eyes to the dangers of global warming. Aside from the abundance of evidence and epiphany-inducing presentations, Derby remembers one thing that moved him most: a professor, speaking to his students about global warming, apologized to them. He apologized for everything that he had done in the past to exacerbate the problem of global warming and for the Earth that he and the generations before him have left his young pupils. Derby hopes that this climate report will help people to realize that it isn't too late to make sure no one has to make that same apology.

Backing the civil union cause

Moats details his role in the civil union debate; Pulitze Prize

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

In front of a handful of students and several faculty and community members, David Moats recounted the events that led up to his Pulitzer Prize award and his book deal.

Moats, the Rutland Herald editorial editor, wrote a series of editorials documenting the legislature's battle over whether same-sex partners should have equal rights in a civil union.

"The topic hit close to home," said Lisa Pleban, physical education professor who said she went to Canada with her partner for a true marriage. "It was nice to hear from the original source about the process [of writing his editorial series]."

Moats was invited to speak in Herrick Auditorium on Feb. 27 by Librarian Sandy Duling and Journalism Professor David Blow. Moats joined former speakers including New York Times columnist Tom Wicker and Castleton Professor Joyce Thomas in the Vermont Authors Series lined up by the library to talk at Castleton.

"I'm pleased to have met him and heard him talk," Duling said of the Pulitzer Prize winner, explaining that seeing Moats' speech made her realize how carefully he crafted his editorials.

When the state around him was in conflict about civil rights, Moats used his editorials to be a "thinking citizen"

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT
David Moats

rather than a persuader or an attacker of the other side.

"The fact that somebody in the mainstream media would report civil rights in a fair and balanced manner is important," Pleban said after the talk.

Throughout the days of the legislative debate, Moats followed the issue like other Vermont citizens, from the newspaper. But he wrote over 20 editorials reasoning out what the next moves of the legislature should be.

While receiving both hate and fan mail, Moats had to decide as editor which ones would make it to the op-ed page. Sometimes the issue threatened his motto to "keep it cool," especially when even those in the newsroom with him began to think he overplayed the issue. He felt, however, that he "gave it the attention it deserved."

Having relatively more freedom than a writer at a bigger paper, Moats was able to write his opinion, while being mindful that his editorials also reflected the overall newspaper's belief.

This gave him more leeway in his writing, leading a colleague to notice that he was "writing with a greater passion" on this issue. This became one of the reasons he submitted 10 of his articles for Pulitzer Prize, noting that if he was going to have a chance at the coveted prize, it would be through this issue.

Months later, Moats was leaked word that he won the Pulitzer three days before the official announcements were released.

"It validated everything they've been through," Moats said of the gay population.

Soon afterward, he received a book deal and became a spokesman for gay and lesbian rights, giving interviews on the issue and talks about how he landed in the position to write these serials of editorials.

"This is how history happens," Moats said, explaining that it takes ordinary people to fight. "Individuals change the course."

Open mic night

PHOTOS BY BETH PANTZER
Top: Wyatt Andrews plays free style blues on his harmonica after his poetry reading.
Left: Students laugh at the comedy of Michael O'Donnell

'Peace Mom' speaks at Castleton

: PEACE
From page 1

panel attacked Congress, saying that they mostly vote the safe route for political purposes, acknowledging that the vote for a resolution to impeach Bush was unlikely to work. but that it was worth a try.

"Let's get George Bush out of office and let's start it here in Vermont," said Sheehan.

Prior to Sheehan stepping up to the microphone, Dan Dewalt, a town selectman from Newfane, Vermont , who authored his town's impeachment resolution, kicked off the night.

"In the state of Vermont, we have the advantage that our smallness in numbers magnifies our powers," said Dewalt, who saw his one town resolution spread across the state within a year. Dewalt spoke for five minutes before handing the stage over to the second speaker of the night John Nichols, a noted political journalist and blogger for The Nation.

"They gave us the genius of impeachment and they wanted us to use it," said Nichols, referring to the writers of the U.S. Constitution.

Nichols, who in his 10 minutes of speaking described himself as a big fan of impeachment, compared the removal of Bush and Cheney to a "removal of the garbage in power."

2-4-6-8 CSC's squad is great

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Hands clap out the rhythm as steady arms and wobbly knees strike poses.

Bright uniforms tumble across the mat as cheerleaders from elementary school to college competed in the Green Mountain Invitational hosted by Castleton State College on Saturday.

Eight high schools and three middle schools competed. Poultney won the overall competition and Rutland took the large varsity division.

Out of the two proposed colleges at the competition Castleton was the only college performing, due to an injury on their opposing team.

The overflowing bleachers and gym floor were filled with fans screaming at times louder than those cheering on the blue mats.

"It's nothing like I expected with all the high energy," said Benn Laberge, who was watching some of his friends compete and expected only five teams. "I should've known better."

Like the music, changing from the typical Britney Spears to the Pussycat Dolls to Queen, the routines varied from no jumps and tumbles (the elementary team) to pyramids and flips in the air.

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT
The Castleton Cheerleading squad performs a pyramid.

The Castleton Cheer coach Heath Haskell, who also coaches Rutland's varsity cheerleading team, set up the invitational as a way to entice cheerleaders to enroll in Castleton and join the team.

It just may have worked, too.

"The crowd was all riled up, which motivates us to do a better job," said Castleton cheerleader Trista Gregory.

Bradford Waterhouse

Some dude gave me a facia last week.

And I'm pretty sure it was one of the more amazing things that have ever happened to me.

And strangely enough, probably the thing that made me the least uncomfortable.

A few days ago I made my very first trip to a spa, a three-hour little jaunt that a friend of mine gave me to as a gift for being amazing (I'm pretty sure) . It took almost a full week of prodding and probing to get me to even consider the idea and a full day of reminders just to make sure I went.

I gave in and told myself I'd do nothing but enjoy it.

On the drive up, I was assured that every single day men went to this very same spa and did the very same things that I was about to do and came out the very same way, rejuvenated and reenergized.

Still uneasy, I walked in and I was introduced to my Spa Man, Jessie (not his real name).

My friend was introduced to her way-hot Spa Woman, Tiffany (the name she gave us, but probably not her real one either).

They walked off to another room and I was left alone with Jessie.

Japanese hot-rock massage. Normal man-hand massage.

A facial, passing on the cucumbers (I needed to watch Jessie's every move). A steam-room (the one time I was mercifully alone).

Hot-tub soak, complete with little lilac-scented globes that sprayed a relaxing mist over the entire room.

A mud bath, with mud that smelled like the tastiest, cleanest mud in the world. If I'd been shown to an open bar and fed lobster I'd have considered staying for life.

And then, the foot massage. As an "added bonus," it came complete with a pedicure.

I can barely touch my own feet without flinching, but Jessie handled them like a cowboy taming a steer.

Telling him my feet were too sensitive only got me a reply of "Oh, I'll just hold them down" and off he went, one hand grasping my ankle like a bear-trap while the other one invaded parts of my feet foreign even to my most worn-out pair of socks.

He grasped, he groped, and he furiously filed down my toenails and cracked knuckles.

Jessie didn't see my tears. Enemies must never sense weakness.

After my feet recovered, I walked myself over to the changing room, head down, shamed.

Going to a spa felt like being manhandled.

And as if what had already been done just wasn't enough, Jessie walked in on me in my underwear to hand my back my necklace.

He didn't even look me in the eyes before he walked away. I felt used.

Exhausted and slightly violated, I rode back in near silence.

I tried shaking away the feeling of Jessie's fingers on my feet, but his grip was just as strong on my mind.

On the way home we stopped for a meal. Steak, potatoes and a few scotches, on the rocks. I needed something manly, something that didn't smell like flowers and lotion, something free of hot oils and perfumes. Something I could enjoy without a burly pair of hairy man-mitts rubbing up on my shoulders and massaging my calves.

I do regret not wearing a nice pair of open-toed sandals, though. Toenails this nice deserve to be shown off.

THE STANDARD

The Castleton State College Graduation Standards Broadside

March 2007 Graduation Standards Test Dates

Register now for these testing sessions toward satisfying the *Quantitative Reasoning Standard* and *Information Literacy Standard* portions of the Castleton State College Graduation Standards.

Quantitative Reasoning Standard				Information Literacy Standard			
March	12	8am	STAC 159	March	19	8am	STAC 159
	14	10am	STAC 159		21	10am	STAC 159
	16	2pm	STAC 159		23	2pm	STAC 159

In order to reg ister for these testing sessions, please contact the Coordinator of Assessment at edwin.johnson@castleton.edu. For more information on the *Quantitative Reasoning Standard* and *Information Literacy Standard*, please take a look at these respective portals on Blackboard. Not only will you be able to find out more about the *Quantitative Reasoning Standard* and the *Information Literacy Standard*, these portals will provide you with the tools you can use to prepare yourself to prove your aptitude at *Quantitative Reasoning* and *Information Literacy*.

These dates are of particular interest for Castleton State College seniors who matriculated in the Fall of 2005 or later and are planning on graduating in May 2007. Please register for these testing sessions as soon as possible in or der to e nsure that you will graduate on time!

REGISTER NOW!

READ THE SPARTAN ONLINE
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CASTLETON SPARTAN
COM

Talking to

Jackie Borelli

Question - If you were on death row, what would your last meal be?

Elizabeth Sailer
"Birthday cake ice cream with strawberries on top. No whip cream."

Madison Quinn
"Macaroni and cheese and anything with tequila."

Mark Wright
"All you can eat buffet."

Betsey Lou Barrows
"Chocolate covered strawberries."

Simonne Gratton
"I'd want a funfetti cupcake with a file inside so I could escape. Oh, and a Rockstar Juice and a Dutch Master.

Nice to meet you: *Ann Chiesa*

Ann Chiesa is the Chemical Hygiene Officer here at Castleton State College. She has been working here for the last 12 years and is the advisor of the Sustainability Club, the chair of the Outdoor Classroom Advisory Board, and is one of the Anatomy Lab instructors. She has also been helping to promote education about Lyme disease since she was diagnosed.

Jazmin Averbuck, Spartan Staff

Name: Ann Chiesa
Birthday: Nov. 21
Hometown: Rockaway, New Jersey
Where do you live now: Granville, New York
Favorite color: Turquoise-blue

I heard you love animals, what is your favorite animal?
"A cat"

How many do you have?
"hmmmm, let me do a count…16"

What was your least favorite thing to dissect?
"A dogfish shark because of the odor."

When were you diagnosed with Lyme disease?
"In August of 2005"

How did it change your everyday life?
"The biggest impact was the effect on my vision from Bell's Palsy"

What was your dream job while growing up?
"To become a teacher."

What are some other jobs you have had?
"Farm hand, lumberyard clerk, gardener, waitress, receptionist, and probably a few more."

Do you have any words of wisdom for the CSC community?
"Appreciate everyday of your life!"

Alumni Profile

Timothy J. Politis

Not long ago a fellow Alumni Board member suggested I write an alumni profile for the college publication. 'Yeah, I'll do it,' I said, 'but what do you want in it?'

"Oh, you know, what Castleton meant to you, your career, the greater meaning of life and our position in the cosmos, that sort of thing," I was told.

Well, I have been ruminating on the subject and how to organize my thoughts into a coherent few paragraphs.

Castleton in the 1960's was a smaller place than it is today although I sense that the close relationship between professors and students continues. I arrived on campus in the fall of 1965 having transferred from another college. I was one of the first 10 students to move into Adams Hall 101. I was a history major and there were several professors who left their mark on me and continue to today in a very positive way. All of them have passed away over the past 15 years, but I was fortunate to have been able to tell them of their influence before they died. Professors Bob Patterson, Warren Cook and Holman Jordan were the ones who had the greatest influence on me. A Mr. Gosselin, who taught Spanish, also had a very large influence in my life -- though at the time I thought the event was the end of the world and my future plans.

I met Patterson my first day on campus when I was signing up for classes. He asked me what I wanted to major in and do with my life and I told him history and law. He asked if I would like to go to Yale Law School, to which I replied 'yes.' He handed me my schedule with three history classes, Spanish, a history of art class and a geography class filled in. I was buried. He became my coach and one of my two mentors at Castleton. He taught me to be a historian and how to think.

Cook had two doctorates, one in anthropology from the Universidad de San Marcos in Lima, Peru and the second one in history from Yale. He was on his way into class one day early in my tenure at Castleton and stopped to ask why I looked so glum. I answered that I thought that I had known some history before coming here, but that I was finding out that I didn't know very much.

He said, "Tim, it's not how much information you carry around in your head that is important, but that you know where to go to get the information."

He taught me how to research. He wanted me to become a history professor. Jordan arrived on campus when I did in 1965. He was of a different style than Patterson and Cook, but could draw good work out of you if you did the reading and thought about what you read. He ran the senior seminar for history majors and through him I learned how to write well enough to get my paper published.There was a war on in 1966 and I was healthy and without money enough to seriously consider graduate or law school.

My Draft Board would be knocking on my door within weeks of graduation in 1967 so I joined the Marine Corps PLC program in the spring of 1966 and attended the officers' candidate course at Quantico, Va. that summer. I successfully completed the course and returned to Castleton in September of 1966 and would be commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation. I had to complete two years of a language to complete my graduation requirement of an intermediate level language. Gosselin was my Spanish teacher and I flunked intermediate Spanish in the first semester of my senior year. I would not graduate with the class of 1967 and would not be commissioned in May.

I would have to take an intermediate level language in the summer of 1967 to graduate and would be considered as member of the class of 1968. I thought it was the end of the world, but it probably saved my life. You see, if I had graduated in May with my class I would have reported aboard at "The Basic School" at Quantico in early June or July of that year. I would have completed the course in November or December of 1967 and would have arrived in Vietnam in early January of 1968.

I would have just arrived when the "Tet" offensive of 1968 hit. The Classes I missed, N and O Companies, suffered the highest casualty rate of second lieutenants the Marine Corps suffered since the dark days of the Korean War.

I left the Basic school in March of 1968 and arrived in Vietnam in July of 1968 and missed the meat grinder that my on-time graduation would have put me in. In 1971 I looked up Gosselin and thanked him.

I did not end up going into either law or graduate level work in history, but ended up spending my career for the most part in the insurance business working with individuals and businesses in providing life, health ,disability insurance and long term care solutions to solve estate creation and preservation problems.

I became a chartered life underwriter in 1980 and have been with the Mass Mutual Financial Group since 1982 here in Portland, Maine with one sojourn of 4-1/2 years as the chief executive officer of the Maine Veterans Homes. So how did my Castleton experience affect me? Castleton prepped me to succeed as a Marine Corps officer, an insurance agent/advisor and the CEO of a $42 million a year long term care operation by molding the way I thought, evaluated information, researched a problem and came to a decision.

My oldest daughter Wendy graduated from Castleton with a degree in history in 1990 and was fortunate to have had Patterson, Cook and Jordan influence her academic life as well. Patterson referred to her as his granddaughter. I do not think that there are many institutions like Castleton that provide such a close community and intellectually stimulating environment. Castleton is a special place for me and that is why I support it.

Manovill dives headfirst into Alumni office

By Jennifer Manning
Spartan Contributor

There are some people who just instantly stick out in your mind as being good. Vy Manovill is one of those.

Up until this semester, Manovill was the Aquatics/SHAPE director at Castleton State College.

Recently, however, she traded in the pool for the Alumni Office, now serving as associate director of Development and Alumni Relations.

"Among my responsibilities as associate director of Development and Alumni, I will be assisting the director in researching, developing and enhancing life-long relationships with Castleton donors, and developing and maintaining alumni chapters and programs," Manovill said.

When word got out that The Spartan was writing about her move, people couldn't stop talking about how much they miss Manovill at the pool, yet they all wished her the best of luck in her new job.

"Much more than just an instructor, she is a friend, and to many, part of the family," said senior Natalie Brassill.

Vy Manovill

Dennis Proulx, president of the Alumni Association, said "I can't say enough good things about Vy in her role as associate director for Development and Alumni Relations!

"You meet Vy, and you can't help but immediately notice her smile, and her love of Castleton," Proulx said. "Watching Vy interact with alumni that night showed she is the right person for the job, people were naturally attracted to her."

Jeanette Ranney, a regular at the hydro fit sessions that Manovill formerly led, said "It became a big family. Vy was very good at keeping track of people. She would send and make casseroles when people got sick."

In the morning she would even call and let people know what the pool temperature was as a courtesy.

"Our patrons with severe arthritis or chronic back pain wouldn't benefit from the water when the pool is less than 84 degrees," Manovill said.

And if the road or parking conditions weren't good, she would call and advise people to stay home.

"After 17 years, we considered ourselves a pool family, that's what you do for family," She said.

Manovill said she misses the people at the pool. She said she always loved when college students would come and participate with area senior citizens. But she also said she excited about her new career - one that keeps her at CSC.

"I am certain this position will be as rewarding and fulfilling for me as the Aquatics/SHAPE director. I have been associated with Castleton for over 30 years as a student and athlete, as a teacher, coach and community wellness promoter, and as an avid fan and supporter," Manovill said. "It is good for the people of the community to get to know the students in person, they have so much to offer to each other and many of them develop lifelong friendships."

Dick Nordmeyer, a retired physical education teacher who fills in as hydro fit instructor from time to time, emphasized how much Manovill made everyone feel as if they really were a family.

"If there was a death in the family she would make casseroles, and help as much as possible.

When people got sick she would visit them at home or in the hospital," said Nordmeyer.

"Vy is always in good spirits even that early in the morning. It was refreshing to see her with a big smile," said Brassill.

Susan Hernadenz

Who me?

The Vermont state college system enables both male and female adults of any age and any social economic background to continue their education.

I know this, because at forty-something I took advantage of my local community college to pursue and complete my associate's degree. I decided to then continue my education at Castleton State College.

I selected CSC for two reasons.

Number one, the campus is 70 miles from my home and therefore within my acceptable driving distance.

Number two, as part of the Vermont college system, all of my credits would automatically transfer into my major or as electives.

Transferring into a new college presented the usual issues of finding one's way around.

At first I repeatedly checked my schedule to see were I was suppose to be and at what time.

I lived in fear that I would get lost, or be late for a class.

After a few days I started to relax as I became comfortable with the physical layout of the campus. I allowed my attention to be drawn over to other aspects of the CSC environment.

The architecture gives the college a traditional academic feel, while the interior furnishings lend an air of relaxation to the learning atmosphere.

The educators and the support staff are all very friendly, helpful and encouraging. The students are engaged, animated, and personable.

There appears to be no lack of equipment or learning materials in any department.

We do however appear to lack an array of skin tones here. We could use a greater variety of flesh tone crayons to our Crayola box. Almost everyone at CSC is white.

One of the things that I had been looking forward to is meeting people from different cultures.

The opportunity to meet people from diverse backgrounds appeals to me, and I am a little disappointed that we do not have a higher percentage of multi-cultural students here.

I should not have been surprised.

It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that when one attends a state college, smack dab in the middle of the whitest state in the union, the diversity rate might just be a bit low.

With my Hispanic surname, is it possible that I was counted as a minority student and part of the diversity? That would be quite a surprise if they were expecting a young Hispanic woman. Then I showed up, a pleasingly plump, middle aged, white woman with rosacia.

Then like a lightning bolt from God it hit me … It is me.

I am it.

I am part of the diversity ratio. I am a minority, and I know this is true because I even have a title that describes me. I am a non-traditional student!

I am one of the students who grew up in a different time and therefore a different culture.

It was a time when chains were put on the car tires in snowstorms, and not all-season radials. I used to change the channels on the black and white TV by getting up and turning the knob. (It was not such a big deal since we only had three channels.)

I watched John Glenn walk on the moon with my fellow classmates. Gathered in the all-purpose room at Grafton Elementary School, we watched it happen live.

I helped to gather sap, by removing the bucket from the tree and dumping the contents in the gathering tank that was hauled through the woods on a trailer pulled by a John Deere tractor.

My first car was a green 1966 Chevy Impala convertible, with rust spots and a hole in the ragtop over the driver's seat. It was only 10 years old at the time.

I remember Jan Brady, Gilligan, Donny and Marie, Sonny and Cher, and Michael Jackson with a wide nose. I was born in 1959. I am a baby boomer.

I am used to being part of the majority. It feels strange to be a minority, and it is a bit lonely. But, if my experiences have made me different, isn't that true for everyone?

No one has the same exact background. So does this mean that everyone is part of this diversity that colleges value so much?

I think so. I think that we all bring with us our individual experiences that make us who we are. It gives us each a perspective that is different from anyone else's. In the classroom it shapes our discussions and the way that we process the academic material.

We are able to see other ways of thinking about and viewing the world around us. We are able to help others perceive different perspectives.

We have an impact on each other's ideas; we help each other grow. All of us come together to create a diverse learning environment that makes us more open up to the world.

Diversity is not just the color of our skin or the ethnic origins of our names, it's who we are and who we become as our lives unfold.

We are all part of this diversity in our school, our communities and our country. And while our box of flesh toned Crayolas may be limited, the experiences of our varied backgrounds allows us each to bring along our individual diversities onto campus.

In the classrooms, dorms and lounges, these multi-cultural differences (no matter how subtle) will mix into the academic environment and will benefit us all.

From Castleton to Division-I Basketball

Matt Kilcullen leads North Florida University

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

Whenever you think of Castleton basketball, ex-NBA coach Stan Van Gundy is usually the first name that comes to mind.

But before Van Gundy led Castleton to consecutive trips to the NAIA tournament in 1984 and '85, Matt Kilcullen left an imprint on the school's basketball program.

Kilcullen, 53, spent three seasons at the helm for the Spartans and recruited most of the players that would lead Van Gundy's tourney teams.

A standout basketball player out of Lehman College in New York, the Bronx-native jumped right into the coaching business after graduating. Lucky for him, his first job was only a walk away.

"When a friend of mine told me the grammar school team right next to us needed a coach, I said 'what the heck, I'll give it a shot'," he said. "I found out that I really enjoyed putting a group of individuals together and working with them to become successful."

All roads start in Castleton

While painting an athletic director's house in Doylestown, Penn., the then-24-year-old assistant at Delaware Valley College received a phone call from a friend, who was able to get Kilcullen an interview for Castleton's coaching vacancy.

"Whenever you remember your first head coaching job, you remember the people that made it happen," he said. "I loved living up in Vermont and really enjoyed my time there."

Kilcullen compiled a 28-48 record at Castleton and improved the team's record each year. In his third and final season, he set a then-single-season record for wins with 14, which was surpassed by Van Gundy's 26 two years later.

One moment that has stuck in Kilcullen's mind was Castleton winning the Paul Bunyan tournament at Husson College and the long bus ride back.

"As a young coach, it gave me a great thrill to be able to go on somebody's home court and win two games when nobody expected you to win and take home the championship," he said. "But it takes us eight hours to get home from Maine in a blinding snow storm. We won the tournament and were very happy, and we get a very slow ride back."

He left Castleton before the 1983 season to work at Siena College as an assistant under John Griffin, who was the youngest head coach in NCAA history at age 25.

"The assistants' job opened up at Siena in Division I, which is the level you inspire to be at," Kilcullen said. "But I thought that I left Castleton State College in pretty good hands because two years later they went 26-1 with the guys we recruited and went to the national tournament."

His years working at summer camps with young players caught the attention of Digger Phelps, who hired Kilcullen as his assistant at Notre Dame. Kilcullen stayed in South Bend for six seasons and learned a lot from Phelps, who now works as a college basketball analyst for ESPN.

"Coach Phelps was very well-organized and did a great job at delegating responsibilities to assistants; I think those were the two biggest things. His preparation for games was unbelievable, and that really comes from

PHOTO BY NORTH FLORDA ATHLETICS

Matt Kilcullen, the North Florida head coach who started his career at Castleton, finishes a team press conference.

his organization and delegation."

Credit where credit's due

Matt Dempsey, a Castleton Hall of Famer and key component to the team's success from 1980-84, was the first player Kilcullen ever recruited.

"I met him at a basketball camp at Notre Dame; he was young and very energetic," said Dempsey, now the assistant women's basketball coach at the Naval Academy. "I learned a lot from him as a coach and actually chose my (coaching) style from him."

Kilcullen still checks up on Dempsey and recalls first meeting his former player at the camp.

"Keeping in contact with Matt, you remember him as a 17-year-old, snot-nosed senior out of high school," Kilcullen said before a brief laugh.

In a phone interview in November, Van Gundy accredited Kilcullen with changing the face of Castleton's basketball program.

"The process really started with Matt and he brought in some really good players," Van Gundy said. "The core of what he had brought played well together, and Jim (Casciano) and I were fortunate enough to take over a good group of players."

Dempsey seemed to agree with Coach Van Gundy, and did not understand the lack of recognition Kilcullen has received for his time at Castleton.

"He's the one who really turned the corner with the basketball program," Dempsey said. "Matt should get a lot more credit for what he did at Castleton."

Division I Basketball

Kilcullen's first head coaching job in Division I sent him to Jacksonville University, where he took a Sun Belt Conference cellar dweller and made a competitive team out of them, finishing 1994 at 17-11.

Kilcullen was then hired at Western Kentucky and led the Hilltoppers to 27 wins and an NCAA tournament upset over Michigan in his first season at the helm. He has the rare honor of being the first coach in NCAA history to win conference coach of the year two consecutive years with two different teams (1994 with JU and 1995 with WKU).

Kilcullen was unexpectedly relieved of his duties at Western Kentucky after four seasons, but wanted to get right back into the coaching fold. After a season assisting at Manhattan College, he was given an opportunity to return to the Jacksonville area when North Florida offered him the head coaching job.

"It was very intriguing because we still kept our house down their; we had never sold it when we left, and instead just rented it out," he said. "So that was something that was not only intriguing but exciting because how many places do you have the chance to go back to the same city and live in the same house with the same neighbors."

While his record at North Florida currently stands at 87-138, Kilcullen is the school's all-time leader in wins as a coach. He finished the 2006-07 season with a 3-26 record, but his Ospreys will enter only their third year in Division I next fall.

"I enjoy building programs where people think you can't win for whatever reasons. I like being in that position right now, where an upstart Division I program is in transition and I think we have a lot to offer in terms of our University, academics, the campus, the people and the city of Jacksonville."

Kilcullen and his wife Mary Jo have two children, Brianna and Michael. He takes trips with his family to Vermont, and shows them where he got started as a coach.

Notes: Another former Spartan head coach, Jim Casciano, has followed Kilcullen's lead and is coaching New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in its first season in Division I...Dempsey works at Navy under head coach Tom Merryott, a teammate of his while playing for Castleton.

Spartans lose heartbreaker in Semi-finals

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

Number one seed and rival Norwich was out of the way. Frustrated Cadet fans couldn't believe the 4-1 upset by Babson, the sixth seed. Now in the Spartans way of facing off with the Beavers was New England College.

But the result left Castleton just as upset.

In Saturday's semifinal match-up, the Pilgrims eliminated the Spartans from the ECAC East tournament with a 3-2 win. One year after a 4-19-3 season, Coach Alex Todd's squad ended its impressive turnaround season at 17-6-4.

With high hopes, a roar of cheers, whistles and cow bells from students, faculty, and fans alike welcomed the Spartans on to the ice the first time and every time after. Dominating the beginning of the first period, Castleton started the scoring at 11:30 with a goal by Jared Lavender off goalie Jeff Swanson's pass.

The celebration didn't last long though. New England came back 32 seconds later to tie it off of Jeff Armando's shot.

But the sound of the goal horn 23 seconds later sent the Spartans into another uproar. Steve Culbertson redirected a shot by Matthew Link and Castleton went into the second period ahead 2-1.

The Pilgrims were determined though, and their two goals in the second were all it took. New England dominated in shots, outshooting Castleton 13-8, which led to an early tying goal by Jon Globke. Mike Mullen's winning shot came late in the period on a power play.

"I thought things were going good, but we were unable to secure the win even though we played hard for the full 60 minutes," Todd said of his team's 2-1 lead in the second.

The third period was filled with "Ohs" from Spartan fans, who endured seeing several scoring chances miss the back of the net. After goalie Ron Baia got tangled up with players halfway into the period, Castleton was unable to cash in on the open net.

Fan support was strong as the Spartans began to show the urgency of a score. Clapping and feet pounding accompanied the shouts of "Let's go Spartans."

But, Baia continued to hold off Castleton, which had 12 shots, stopping Brandon Heck and Joe Huchko after Todd pulled Swanson in the last two minutes.

"There was no major downfall. We played very well; we were just unable to score," Todd said. "We could have easily won, but the credit goes to New England."

Baia ended the night with 30 saves for the Pilgrims while Swanson made 23.

With only three players graduating, the Spartans will look to once again be a strong team in the conference next year.

Spartan reporter Shannon Sciria contributed to this report.

PHOTO BY BETH PANTZER

Jeff Alexander (17) shoots the puck past a New England defender, but can't get it by goalie Ron Baia.

Women's hockey ends disappointing season

By Shannon Sciria
Spartan Staff

The Castleton State women's hockey team finished their difficult season with an overall record of 2-17 in the ECAC and 5-10 in non-conference play.

The Spartans dropped their last 10 out of 11 games and failed to grab a birth to the ECAC tournament.

"Obviously we are all disappointed about the way the season ended, and making the playoffs was a big goal of ours; however that doesn't mean that positive strides weren't taken along the way," said head coach David Stockdale.

The Spartans entered the season looking uphill, coming off last year's dismal 7-18 record. They also put 10 underclassmen on the ice with six freshman and four sophomores.

"With such a young team it was critical that our young players gain experience, and many of them had an opportunity to play in a lot of different situations over the course of the year and gain valuable experience," Stockdale said days after the season came to a close with a 6-3 loss to Oswego.

The Spartans return every player to next year's team, including standout ECAC goalie of the year Vanessa Carter who has been a stud for the Spartans between the pipes. Carter had an impressive 659 saves out of a possible 731 this season.

"I expect our program to take a big step forward next season. We return all of our players from this year, and will be adding a large recruiting class to our program," Stockdale said.

"As a result we will have increased depth and a higher overall skill level. It will be an exciting season with the incoming players."

Stockdale says that there are already four students committed to joining CSC and the hockey team, but he is also very hopeful about some others who have shown some interest in the program.

The biggest thing the Spartans will be looking for next year is someone who can put the puck in the back of the net and generate some offense. The team was shut out nine times this year and only scored one goal on three other occasions, all in losing efforts.

"It was extremely important that we lay the foundation for success in the years to come and I think we were largely successful in doing that," said Stockdale.

Tony Trombetta
Sports Columr

February - Good riddance

As a huge sports fan, I am once again so very thankfu that the God-forsaken month of February is finally over. And it has nothing to do with the fact that the Man upstairs dropped temperatures below expletive freezing and blanketed us in our misery with three feet of snow.

No. I'm ecstatic because February is the worst month for sports, by far. The only refuge in this dark dreary month is the slightly abridged four-week format. Good lookin' out to whoever came up with that.

Someone reading this is probably saying to himself something in reference to the fact that the Super Bowl was at the beginning of the month. Quite true. I must respond to that inquisitively. How much do you think the guy on death row enjoys his last meal? Ever had a one-night stand? Sure it's pretty sweet at the time, but then it's over. And what are you left with? Nothing!

As Super Bowl XLI ended, quite anti-climatically as someone pretty clever predicted, the life of the average sports fan took a terrible nosedive similar to the plunge experienced by Ryan Leaf.

Just for arguments sake, and to appease my southern readership, let's consider NASCAR a sport. And believe me, I'm being 100 percent hypothetical. If I ever decide to really be condescending I'll share with you my views on NASCAR and its status as a "sport."

Anyway, with the exception of the Great American Left Turn down in Daytona, February lacks any significant sporting event outside of the Super Bowl. Essentially, we're just waiting for the salvation from the sports doldrums that the month of March will bring.

I mean really, who in their right mind wants to watch a bunch of rednecks and Jeff Gordon drive in a circle for five hours? Woops. Sorry. I shouldn't have started.

March brings hope and Madness. The Major League Baseball season is just around the corner and the NCAA captivates America from now until early April.

If there's anything in the world of sports nearly as exciting as the NCAA Tournament, it can be found in the conference tournaments that precede the Big Dance.

In the Conference tournaments, hope springs eternal. It's a chance to possibly become the next George Mason.

Granted GMU did not win their conference tournament last year, but in other conference tourneys across the nation Cinderella continually slipped on her dancing shoes.

Here in Vermont, we all have fond memories of the three consecutive appearances of the UVM squad in the NCAA Tournament. Under coach Tom Brennan, and led by Taylor Coppenrath, the Cats led our entire state down a magical path a couple of years ago with a remarkable upset of perennial powerhouse Syracuse in the first round of the Big Dance. That's the kind of stuff that makes March so beautiful.

So, good riddance to February and a special congratulations to Kevin Harvick. By passing a 48-year-old, who formerly had Viagra logos smeared across his car, you single-handedly made life worth living in the month of February.

Now if you really want to impress me, turn right NASCAR. Please!

The SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, March 21, 2007

Calling For Peace

PHOTO BY MATTHEW SARGENT
A person disguised as a disfigured Iraqi woman with her dead baby protests the Iraq War in Rutland Sunday.

Castleton students protest war with peace

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

PHOTO BY MATTHEW SARGENT
Peace rally organizers Dianna Bessette (left)and Castleton student Matt Kimball.

RUTLAND- As Castleton Junior Matt Kimball stood shivering along the slushy sidewalk of Rutland's Main Street Park on Sunday afternoon, he took a moment to tighten the hood of his black ALL sweatshirt, shielding himself from the frigid blast of a waning Vermont winter.

Pinned to the back of his shirt, with the aide of four precisely placed silver safety pins, was a message many Vermonters were hoping would echo throughout the country:

"Vermont says not one more dollar. Bring the troops home now!"

Kimball joined dozens of Vermonters of all ages on March 18 as part of a nationwide anti-war demonstration and protest, marking the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. The event was organized by members of the Student Peace Alliance of Rutland County (SPARC) and Central Vermont Peace and Justice (CVPJ).

"We are protesting the illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq, Afghanistan, and we are trying to prevent war with Iran," Kimball said, clinging to the "Justice or Just Us?" sign in his icy hands.

Kimball is a communication major at CSC and one of the lead organizers of SPARC, a coalition of high school and college students brought together with the goal of educating the youth on issues of peace, justice, and the Iraq war.

"Iraq never attacked us. Preemptive war was exactly what the Nazis stood on trial for after World War II," Kimball said. "Why not preemptive peace? Why war at all anyways?"

Fellow SPARC organizer Dianna Bessette encouraged the youth of the country to stand up and question the policies of President George W. Bush.

"People know his lies. People are starting to know and he better be friggin' scared," Bessette said with distaste in her voice. "He's just a puppet!"

Sanjukta Ghosh, a communication professor at Castleton who helped organize the march, also questioned the current administration's reasoning behind the U.S. led invasion of Iraq.

"If Iraq was the biggest producer of oranges in the world and didn't have the world's second largest reserve of oil, would you [President Bush] have gone there for regime change?" Ghosh asked.

Some demonstrators waved their signs denouncing the war, while others sang anti-war songs to keep their minds from the artic chills sweeping across the state. A giant white dove made from bed sheets and paper-maché towered over the protestors, urging peace to the passersby.

Adam Cram, a reggae/folk musician proficient in numerous instruments including guitar and didgeridoo, spoke softly with peace in his voice while the Bob Marley button pin on his sleeve caught snow from the breeze.

"It's the same war that's been going on since the beginning of time. It's the war of religion, it's the war of money," Cram said. "Money is the biggest drug."

"Society needs to exist with the earth and each other," Cram continued. "We all bleed the same color."

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Madden: 'I don't support the troops'

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ENNIS DULING
Soldier turned war critic, Liam Madden.

By Kristina Collins
Spartan Staff

A former Marine and Iraq War veteran came to the Old Chapel on March 13 and told students, "I don't support the troops."

Liam Madden, a 22-year-old veteran, discussed how politicians are spitting in our faces and insulting our intelligence by saying, "support our troops," because Congress has the power of the purse and the ability to defund an undeclared war.

Even by supporting the soldier, you support what he is doing, Madden said.

During his speech, Madden did not mention that as a Marine he made sergeant during his four years of service. He has only been out of the military since Jan. 22 -- and one week after his discharge, he began a national speaking tour.

He said that when he arrived home from Iraq, the last thing he wanted to do was get out on the road.

"I'm not a speaker," the Bellows Falls native said and added, "I can't do nothing."

But he and other soldiers began and signed an "Appeal for Redress" to end the occupation in Iraq. Currently, he has 1,700 signatures.

Please see **Madden** *PAGE 6*

Huden thefts annoy director, raise costs

PHOTO BY DAWSON RASPUZZI
Sign on Huden details thefts.

By Dawson Raspuzzi
Spartan Editor

Missing: 250 cups, 300 plates and bowls, 400 kitchen utensils.

Pete Merritt, food service director at Castleton State College, said these are just some of the items that were taken from Huden Dining Hall last semester. Theft, up to this point in the school year, has totaled thousands of dollars already, according to Merritt.

Reward: A whole lot of cash in your pockets instead of invested in next year's meal plan.

Each item stolen from Huden contributes to a more expensive meal plan for students when next school year rolls around.

"What is stolen needs to be purchased to be replaced. The money has to come from someone," Merritt said.

There are three different types of theft that Huden officials are trying to put an end to. The first type is theft of the small stuff like utensils and other hard goods. The second is the theft of services or food, which includes students filling Tupperware containers with food or bottles of juice and bringing them outside of the cafeteria.

And lastly, Merritt wants to put an end to people sneaking into Huden without a meal plan, or using a friend's meal card.

Students with meal plans are allowed to eat as much food as they wish inside of the dining hall, but are not allowed to take food with them when they leave. There are exceptions, which Merritt calls "Pete rules," in which students are allowed to grab a single piece of fruit or a bowl of ice cream for the road.

This school year, the amount of food and supplies lost has astonished Merritt, who is in his first year at CSC.

"These problems are at every college café, but it's about as worse here as anywhere I've been," he said.

Merritt blames a lot of the theft on student confusion about

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COMING NEXT ISSUE

Survey says?

Well, it says CSC students drink more, have lower self esteem and generally perform worse than other schools nationally.

SA announces plans for Reel Big Fish concert in April.

EDITORIALS

Handicapping ourselves

By Bradford Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

Winter and early spring in Vermont are hardly welcoming times of the year for people to be moving around on campus. Feet of muck-ice, slush, dirty water puddles, layers of sand and salt from trucks, snow banks rising so high you can barely see across the parking lot to pull out and, in March, mud so deep you can't pull out of the parking lot at all.

As nasty looking and uninviting as the campus may look this time of year, for someone who is handicapped, especially visiting the school for the first time in hopes of maybe going here, it looks particularly so.

As much as people have tried, and in many ways succeeded, in making this campus a friendly, welcoming place for people with handicaps, there are still things around campus that need to change.

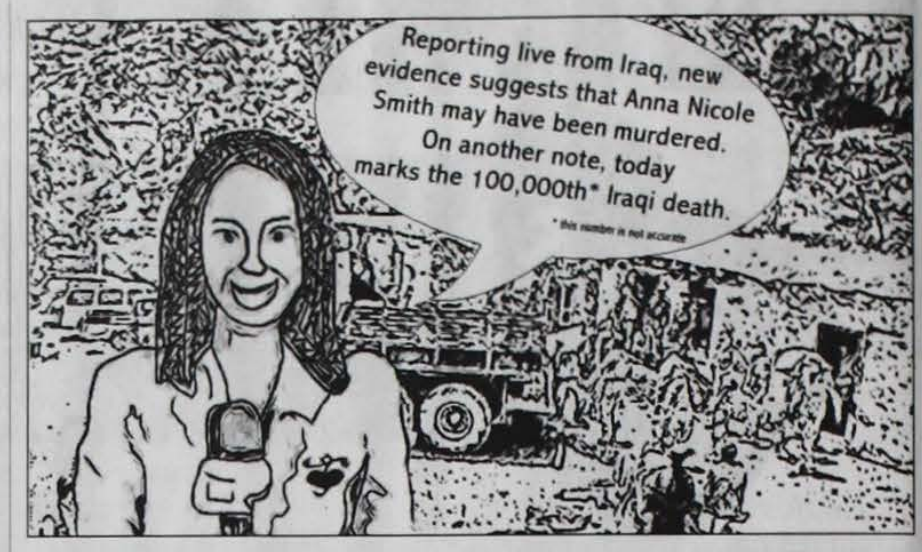
Terrain has to be one of the most problematic things on campus. During the day, the snow melts, covering the sidewalks and sides of the road with water that turns into ice later in the evening. It's hard enough to walk on with two feet, but with crutches the ice is more than just a nuisance, it becomes a hazard. Some sidewalks (like the one behind Wheeler hall) are coming apart, becoming more like small obstacle courses than the smooth footpaths they were put there to be. In a wheelchair, the feeling becomes, as my cousin describes it, "so bumpy and tiring that when I get to the end I want to go across campus and loop around instead of going back."

Handicap parking is also an issue. In the winter, painted cues on the pavement showing where the handicap spots are become hidden, with some spots on campus (like the new lot next to Castleton Hall) devoid of any other sign. Some spots, like the one behind Wheeler, are the same size as regular spots with a spot to park on either side, making it impossible for someone using a ramp to get it to the ground so they can get out of their vehicle.

Accessibility to buildings is another area that needs the most work. Few buildings have handicap-accessible doorways (with buttons) and even those that do are faulty. The handicap doors to Glenbrook gymnasium have, on occasion, been locked, which is against the law. The button on Castleton Hall has been broken for weeks and the new buildings don't even have buttons for accessibility.

The argument may be brought up that these buildings have no handicapped residents living in them but what if they want to visit? Part of a successful and fulfilling college experience is social interaction and the ability to do things on your own. If someone in a wheelchair is allowed easy access to certain buildings but struggles with access to others, is isn't only frustrating, it's insulting. Anyone on campus should be able to go wherever they want in order to see friends, professors, attend classes and go about their lives. Something as simple as being able to open a door shouldn't even have to be thought about. Yes, friends could go visit someone in a handicap accessible building but the fact that a decision like that even has to be made is sad.

The whole point of college, besides academics, is to begin your independence. My guess is that we may have lost some potentially bright and gifted students over the all-too-easily-fixed problem of accessibility. It has frustrated even people without handicaps, myself included. This isn't an attempt to solve any problems but a starting point to get people in the Castleton community to think about these things. It might not be that we don't need these things because there are very few handicapped people on campus but rather there are very few handicapped people on campus because there are plenty of other campuses that give them a much more welcoming environment.



Sen. Leahy defends public's right to know

This third annual Sunshine Week comes after another year of bleak news for the public's right to know. But this year, there also are a few tenuous rays of hope on the horizon.

For six years we have been treading water against a tide of WhiteHouse antagonism toward open and transparent government. By using ideology to trump science, muzzling government scientists and experts, reclassifying public documents, unprecedented use of presidential signing statements to undercut the public's right to know that the laws are being faithfully executed, and undermining key information access routes like the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Administration has shown a corrosive disdain for the free press and the public and unparalleled efforts to expand government secrecy. It should gall every taxpaying American, for example, that Dr. James Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Institute and a leading authority on climate change, was kept away from events where he could share his research insights with the public - the same American public that pays the bills for the research Dr. Hansen has been doing.

Ironically, at a time when the federal government is intent on creating more and more databanks to collect more and more information about every American, it has become harder and harder for the American people to learn what their government is up to.

These have also been fragile times for FOIA, our bedrock open government law. Now in its fourth decade, FOIA faces challenges like never before. FOIA shines disinfecting light on the bad policies and abuses that the government would rather keep hidden from public view. We can depend on government agencies to tell us when they'redoing things right. We need FOIA to find out when they're not. FOIA is the public's indispensable accountability tool.

Last year the public learned through a FOIA request filed by several human rights organizations that the Bush Administration has kept vital facts secret about human rights violations and prisoner abuse in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay. Other FOIA'd documents revealed extensive contacts between disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff and the Bush White House, including meetings with former White House official David Safavian.

Yet FOIA's erosion continues. A recent study by OpentheGovernment.org found that FOIA requests continue to rise, while federal agencies still are unable to keep pace. And the Government Accountability Office reports that federal agencies had 43 percent more pending FOIA requests in 2006 than during 2002.

We have pushed and pushed for better FOIA compliance, and the Bush Administration finally responded with modest efforts that fall far short of what's needed. More than a year after the President's directive to government agencies to improve their FOIA services, the huge backlogs remain. A recent study by the Coalition of Journalists for Open Government found that the first 13 federal agencies to report FOIA data for 2006 reported slightly higher FOIA backlogs than the year before. Even more troubling, the report also found that the percentage of FOIA requestors who actually got at least some of the information that they requested fell by 31 percent.

All the more reason for Congress to step in. And here is where some rays of hope are beginning to break through. The American people last November sent the rubberstamp Congress packing, and the new Congress is beginning to do real oversight again. This week I will once again join Senator John Cornyn of Texas in a bipartisan effort to reinvigorate FOIA, by reintroducing the OPEN Government Act -- a collection of commonsense reforms designed to update FOIA and to reduce processing delays. Our bill was drafted after extensive consultation with those who use FOIA to make information available to the public, including news organizations, bloggers, librarians and public interest organizations across the political spectrum. Our bill reaffirms FOIA's central premise -- that government information belongs to the American people.

In our state we have a proud history of caring deeply about good government, government transparency and conscientious journalism, which helps explain Vermonters' strong reaction to the dismissal and shabby treatment of Chris Graff, the former head of the Associated Press's Vermont bureau.

Sunshine Week is a chance to take stock and to recommit to defending the public's right to know. Without a vibrant and reinvigorated FOIA, citizens can be kept in the dark about key policy decisions that directly affect their lives. Without open government, citizens cannot make informed choices at the ballot box. Without access to public documents and a vibrant free press, government decisions can be made in the shadows -- often in collusion with special interests -- without accountability. And once eroded, these rights are hard to win back.

A free, open and accountable democracy is part of our heritage as citizens of this great and good country. Many have fought and died to preserve it for us. To each new generation falls the duty to renew and recharge this inheritance, so that future generations of Americans can have it, too.

By Patrick Leahy

HUMAN GENRE — BY JESSE DURONA

BRAD THEN DISPROVED THE THEORY THAT MACS DON'T CRASH USING, IN HIS OPINION, THEIR BEST FEATURE: THROWING DISTANCE

The SPARTAN
CASTLETON STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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I stayed sober on St. Patty's Day

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

Sweet St. Patty's

It's the one day out of the year that you are allowed - no, REQUIRED - to get entirely obliterated and obnoxious, and then piss in your roommate's fridge. All in the name of the patron Saint of Ireland.

God bless those crazy Irish. Thanks for Lucky Charms and leprechauns.

I chose to write this inquisitive editorial on St. Patrick's Day. I felt that the holiday was worthy to write about, considering my primary audience consists of collegiate Coors-chuggers and Dead Heads.

Oh Danny Boy, the hangover's a callin.'

Like many of you, I'm not really all that Irish, yet I still feel the need to celebrate.

But instead of a bottle of Irish whiskey, I chose to stick to my roots with a nice bottle of deer blood: Germany's Jägermeister.

That being said, this year was the first year in which I did NOT get completely Belushi-buzzed or Sinatra-smashed. I had a couple drinks, but I didn't feel the urge to drink until my face fell off. For a little while, I was actually quite distraught at that entire concept.

Is it possible to enjoy St. Patrick's Day without the aide of a bottle of Jameson and a dozen long necks of Guinness?

The answer my friends, is ehhh ... kind of.

My Patty's was about as interesting as a kickboxing match between two paraplegics. I sat in my apartment, had a couple drinks, and eventually said the hell with the whole damn thing and went to bed.

Now I know I can have a good time without getting completely take-my-clothes-off-and-bathe-in-Play-Doh drunk, but for some ungodly reason I can't seem to be satisfied with a "few drinks" on Patty's - I just can't.

Like Rosie O'Donnell at a Ponderosa buffet line, I just gotsta have more.

But after I realized that my Patty's was mostly shot to hell worse than Tupac's BMW, I actually began to question why I wanted to drink so bad in the first place.

My mind wanted to drink heavily, but my body just wasn't feeling it. I felt like someone who conveniently gets headaches minutes before sex as a means to avoid the whole shebang.

I felt ashamed - like I was living a lie.

Then it occurred to me. I can get drunk ANYTIME! I don't need an excuse. I'm above that now. I'm an alpha male, super-sophisticated, scotch-on-the-rocks kind of yuppie asshole that drinks from a damn decanter.

All kidding aside, I just didn't feel like getting crazy on Patty's. I could have gone to a bar, I could have gone to the dorms, or I could have sat on the toilet and fed moonshine into my veins.

But I didn't.

I chose to reject the stereotypical drunken college kid label for a day and do my own thing, however boring it may have been, because it felt better to make my own way than follow along someone else's.

I guess it falls under the whole peer pressure category. I mean no one forced me to do anything. Actually, no one even invited me to a party - bastards. But hey, some of Ozzy Osbourne's best work came after he split with Black Sabbath, you know.

So cheers to everyone who decided to be "lame" on Patty's. Let's drink to those of us who had the balls to stay sober, be bored, and feel rejected by our fellow peers.

Besides, if it weren't for those poor, unfortunate, sober souls, no one would have been able to drive your drunken butt back to your dorm in the first place.

They could have left you naked in a kiddy pool full of leeches and 5 O'clock Vodka - but they didn't.

I probably would have, though.

Teaching outdoor survival

Students take a class to learn how to survive in the winter

By Chris Adams
Spartan Contributor

After a long day of skiing at Killington, you and your buddies decide to take a few last runs down the mountain.

You are a little bored of the same old trails and want to push it to the limit on some self-made trails and take advantage of the remaining daylight. You and your friends ski off the marked trail to do some backcountry exploration.

A few minutes after you complete the run you end up in a large basin surrounded by ridges in all directions and you realize that you have lost your sense of direction and do not have enough daylight to try and find your way out of the woods before dark.

You are cold, wet, and hungry and you have no cell phone service in this remote part of central Vermont.

What do you do?

Students who have taken courses within Castleton Sate College's Outdoor Education Program would know what to do and have the skills necessary to get themselves and friends out of such a situation safely.

With a large population of outdoor athletes like skiers, snowboarders, and hikers on campus, Castleton State College has made efforts to provide outdoor education for students.

Starting originally with a popular course in Backpacking and Orienteering, Castleton has made great strides in recent years to expand the unique program. The Outdoor Education program at Castleton currently features a wide variety of courses ranging from primitive survival skills to mountaineering to ice climbing and winter camping.

According to instructor Steve Lulek, the program is seeing increased popularity with each semester and the future looks incredibly bright for outdoor education at Castleton.

Lulek, who teaches courses including winter camping, ice climbing and mountaineering, has been a part of the rapid growth of the program and values the programs roots.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY NICK KORDA

Natalie Brassill tests her ice climbiing skills in a recent outing with the Castleton outdoor education program.

"The program started about nine or 10 years ago with backpacking and orienteering which was very popular and has just taken off ever since," he said.

Lulek, who has 22 years of military experience, is as skilled an instructor as you will find. He taught ice climbing, mountaineering, and orienteering to the military's special operations and other top divisions. He feels that his experiences have given him the ability to educate college students to the highest degree.

"Me and the other instructors in the program aren't just classroom taught. While we are educated, our real-world experience really sets us apart and makes this program pretty unique," he said.

Lulek is pleased with the present state of the program and stated that the primitive survival skills and the winter camping and mountaineering classes are becoming very popular, often filling up before any other classes at the college.

Castleton State College junior Jarrod Pulsifer recently took the primitive survival course and had a great experience.

"The entire course was just awesome," he said. "Obviously we learned a lot in the classroom, but the best part was being able to get out in the woods and apply what we were taught. For our final exam we were dropped off in a remote section of a local forest and forced to make it through the night without any tools or supplies."

"A lot of the kids who take the courses don't have any outdoor experience and we not only educate them, but we take them to some of the most beautiful and remote areas around, places that they normally would never see."

-Steve Lulek, professor

"We had to use the resources around us to make our fire and create necessities like our lean-to shelters and spruce bough beds. I am pretty lucky to have been able to take the course and would highly recommend it to other students," said Pulsifer.

When asked about the rewards of the program, Lulek displayed his passion for teaching outdoors education in his answer.

"The best part for me is seeing the smiles on the kids faces after they complete a task. They have a real sense of pride and accomplishment after they use what they have learned to succeed in the outdoors," he said. "A lot of the kids who take the courses don't have any outdoor experience and we not only educate them, but we take them to some of the most beautiful and remote areas around, places that they normally would never see."

The Outdoor Education Program instructor described a story of a recent Castleton graduate who took one of his classes and was forced to apply the skills he learned there in a real world situation.

"The student called me recently and told me about how he was driving and came upon a bad accident. While he couldn't carry out any advanced procedures, he was able to provide basic treatment and instruction to those involved, skills he said he picked up during his time in the outdoor education program," said Lulek. "Stuff like that provides satisfaction and makes us feel good about what we are doing here at Castleton."

Students in the primitive survival skills course are working toward their final exam, an overnight trip to remote wilderness in Goshen, and the winter camping class will be taking part in a 48-hour adventure that requires students to build their own snow shelter and live in it.

Also, the mountaineering class is going to complete a very unique challenge as they will trek into Smugglers Notch and later hike over giant Mt. Washington in Northern New Hampshire.

Another Castleton State College student, Henry Thatcher, echoes what Pulsifer and Lulek have to say about the program.

"I really think it's a great program. I think that everyone should have to take camping and orienteering and primitive skills and survival because the skills you learn are a necessity if you were ever stranded on your own. These were some of the best classes that I have taken at this school and I would recommend them to anyone," said Thatcher.

With growing popularity and support, the future of the program looks very bright. So bright that according to Lulek, the school plans to offer the program as a minor to the college's outdoor-oriented students.

Eventually, Lulek would like to see the Outdoor and Adventure Education Program turned into a major, culminating with a community service type project where students may guide area school children or adults on hiking, camping, or survival trips.

"It's a real program and we're teaching from real world experience. It's just great that we can provide kids with these experiences right here in Vermont," said Lulek.

Winners of Student Association election

Corey Gray, President
Lucas Roberts, Executive Vice President
Nicole McAllister, Vice President of Academics
Danielle Clark, Treasurer

For complete story on SA elections tune in next issue

THE STANDARD

The Castleton State College Graduation Standards Broadside

March 2007 Graduation Standards Test Dates

Register now for these testing sessions toward satisfying the *Quantitative Reasoning Standard* and *Information Literacy Standard* portions of the Castleton State College Graduation Standards

Quantitative Reasoning Standard			Information Literacy Standard		
March 12	8am	STAC 159	March 19	8am	STAC 159
14	10am	STAC 159	21	10am	STAC 159
16	2pm	STAC 159	23	2pm	STAC 159

In order to register for these testing sessions, please contact the Coordinator of Assessment at edwin.johnson@castleton.edu. For more information on the *Quantitative Reasoning Standard* and *Information Literacy Standard*, please take a look at these respective portals on Blackboard. Not only will you be able to find out more about the *Quantitative Reasoning Standard* and the *Information Literacy Standard*, these portals will provide you with the tools you can use to prepare yourself to prove your aptitude at *Quantitative Reasoning* and *Information Literacy*.

These dates are of particular interest for Castleton State College seniors who matriculated in the Fall of 2005 or later and are planning on graduating in May 2007. Please register for these testing sessions as soon as possible in or der to e nsure that you will graduate on time!

REGISTER NOW!

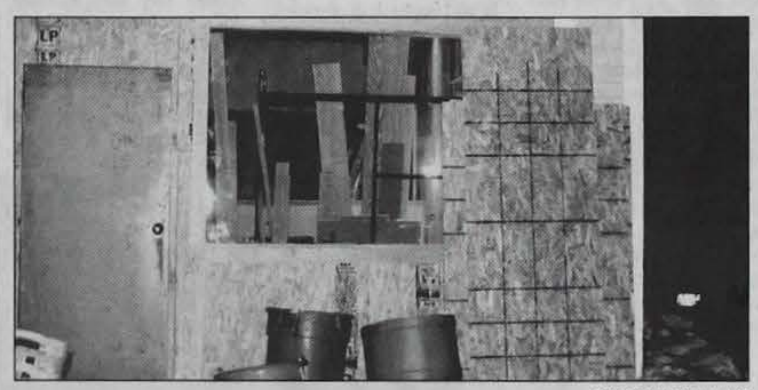


PHOTO BY MAIRIAH MINER

This area behind the Castleton Pizza Place and Deli will soon be home to an expanded restaurant including an eight-person bar.

Deli expanding, to include small bar

By Miriah Miner and Charles Smith
Spartan Contrributors

For the past several months, there have been many rumors spreading like wild fire through the CSC campus regarding just what was going on behind the Castleton Pizza Place and Deli.

Where the rumors originated is impossible to say, but the focus of all of them was simple, and for many students hopeful: Could it be a bar?

To the disappointment of most post-21 year old students and residents, the answer to that question is no - sort of.

John Rehlen, owner of the deli, said the addition people are seeing won't be an attached bar.

Instead, he is transforming that portion of the building into a restaurant-style eatery, to accommodate upcoming expansions to the menu. Things like pasta and other dishes will be served back there when the construction is completed sometime in early April.

Here's where the 'sort of' comes in.

Rehlen also said that there will be a small bar in the addition that will seat eight people.

So with the rumors of a large-scale alternative watering hole to 'The Dog' put to rest, what do people think of the plans?

Most interviewed said that they would much rather have it be turned into a bar, or at least they showed enthusiasm at the idea of a bar.

"I don't think the restaurant is what's needed in town," said post-graduate student Adam White. "I think it would be cool, but another restaurant isn't the best thing for the town. A bar would be the ideal thing to put there."

Michelle Gayne, an area coordinator at CSC, agreed that a bar closer than The Dog might have been a better alternative. That said, she said students will be able to sensibly have a drink at the renovated pizza place.

"I see it as a positive thing. It gives those students of age a safe & fun place to have a drink or two and do so responsibly. I have also always thought that Main Street could use more coffee shops etcetera and I think a bar would be just one more "night time" thing to have," she said.

An employee of the establishment, who asked not to be named, said she too believes a full bar would have been a better option.

"The Dog is a driving distance away, it would be a lot safer to have a place walking distance from campus," she said.

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Joanna Doolan

A huge workload, financial aid problems, hating their roommate. These are the things that graduating high school seniors fear as they think about going into college. But none of these fears are as great as the one thing prospective college students are horrified of: the freshmen 15.

When I first came to college this is what I figured, "Hey, I'm a poor college kid, there's no way I will eat THAT much because I will be too busy and have no money." To make sure that I would avoid the freshmen 15, I chose the least amount of meals and brought a lot of my own stuff from home.

Soon enough, I learned that I was horribly wrong.

Back home I was usually at school or hanging out with people so I had less time to hang around and eat. I actually had to pay money for extra food outside of my house, instead of using "points" or my meal card. This meant I snacked a lot, but never really ate a lot.

Even chomping on donuts while working at Dunkin Donuts didn't seem like to much harm.

Now, I'm not the skinniest girl ever, but I have never really cared. I look okay, and I don't sit on my butt all day and stuff my face like a pig. I was pretty active just because I was always out doing something. I never felt bad about a few extra pounds.

At this point in time, I am not feeling my lightest.

My first semester I tried not eating too much. I didn't go to the gym like I promised myself I would, but at least I wasn't gaining a bunch of weight. Somehow I didn't feel like I was any different of a size than when I started school.

This semester rolls around, and me and my good friend Talia decide to go to the gym. We buckled down, putting on tank tops and sweatpants, and went. It felt good. (Besides the burning sensation in my legs for the first few days.)

We still go, I promise. But not as much as before. Okay, way less than before. I have found an excuse to not go, which usually involves "something better to do".

I don't really think I have gained fifteen pounds. Well, I hope not. But there are a few pounds I have acquired which have mysteriously appeared lately.

Maybe, I just like food too much. Or, I take advantage of the all-you-can-eat option of Huden.

Whatever it is, it needs to stop. I do not want to eat this much, why does food have to be so tasty? Maybe if I had stuck to my gym plan this would not be happening.

But isn't that always how it is?

I know I always tell myself I am going to do something, then I start it. After a little while I get sick of doing it because I would rather be doing something else.

It's not like I ever worked out before college except in gym class. Trying to start now is pretty hard. Working out really isn't what I'm dreading. I think I'm just dreading having to get out of my room and stop playing Guitar Hero or something.

I am a list maker, I make lists for everything - homework, plans, ideas, and whatever else may need a list.

Here's my new list: Go to the gym. Go to the gym again. And go to the gym more.

Okay, maybe this will not be the final draft of my list, but let's just say it will go a little something like that.

Well, at least until I find something better to do.

A high school drop out no more

Rutland individual finds the insipration in his children to go back to school

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

COURTESY PHOTO
Dan Bakersfield, of Rutland, poses with his wife and daughter.

While walking home from class with a knapsack strapped to his back, the full-grown student joyfully waves to a fellow classmate.

A smile crosses his bearded face before he heads into his Rutland home, another completed hurdle in a long-awaited journey.

Twenty years ago, Dan Bakersfield decided to drop out of school without receiving a high school diploma.

Bakersfield, now 37, has returned to his old stomping grounds and is currently a full-time student at Rutland High School. After his 20-year hiatus from school, Bakersfield plans on finishing something he had started a long time ago.

"You obviously can't go back in time, but I am fortunate that we live in a world where a person can get another chance," he said. "This is my opportunity to show family and friends that I am serious about getting a diploma."

Twenty-year leave of absence

Before his departure from school, the Rutland native was a B-student who claims he had a knack for making his fellow classmates laugh.

"School was so much fun back then," Bakersfield said, with a grin as wide as a football field. "My teachers generally were nice to me, and I enjoyed being in that classroom setting with my friends."

In early October, 1986, his world would take an abrupt turn as his then-girlfriend, Julie Simmons, became pregnant. While Simmons chose to take night classes during her pregnancy, Bakersfield dropped out of school completely.

"I had to get myself a couple jobs in order to provide for my new family," he said. "We were short on money and finishing high school was, unfortunately, the least of my worries at the time."

Bakersfield was working many hours each day, whether he was helping customers at Toys R' Us or repairing cars at his friend's shop.

"I hated what I was doing and would have rather been at school, but what else was I supposed to do? We had a kid at a young age, and bills needed to be paid," he said, before shaking his head with a guilty look on his face.

The couple would get married in December 1987, months after their oldest son, Steven, was born. Years would pass before Bakersfield was able to relax and contemplate the decision he made as a teenager.

"Once we were set with money and raising our kids, I would sometimes ask myself 'what if I went back to school for a year to graduate,'" he said. "I knew I'd look silly for being the only 30-year-old wearing a stupid backpack, but it was something I needed to do."

The Comeback Trail

Bakersfield, a father of two, is eligible to graduate at the end of the school year and receive his high school diploma. He is taking eight classes, including economics and calculus.

His wife, Julie, believes that watching Steven graduate from high school last spring was an inspiration for the former dropout.

"When we came home from our son's graduation, Dan told me he was going back to school," she said with a smile. "At first, I thought he was just trying to make me laugh, but he was really serious about it."

Peter Folaros, principal of Rutland High School, has become friendly with Bakersfield and is a big fan of his efforts in the classroom. According to both Folaros and Bakersfield, the two meet once a week to discuss the student's progress.

"Dan has done a wonderful job keeping up with his classes," Folaros said. "It's a shame he didn't graduate when he was supposed to, but Dan is setting a great example right now for our students to achieve their goals no matter the road blocks."

Bakersfield walks to school everyday from his house, which is two blocks away, and refuses to drive for a particular reason.

"I always see kids walking to school instead of taking the bus or driving to school, which is different for me because I used to take the bus," he said. "Since I've been out of school for over 20 years and never made the walk from my house, why not try it now and get some exercise."

With Steven, 19, spending his first semester at the University of New Hampshire, and his 11-year-old daughter in middle school, Dan Bakersfield is focused on making the grades and leaving Rutland High School with the ultimate reward.

"I don't care what other people are saying about me," he said sharply. "I am not leaving that school until I graduate. I owe it to my wife and kids."

Who's afraid of the big bad pub?

Michelle Spier

Not so long ago there were four students who wanted a pub on campus -- and the big-bad wolf Castleton tried to blow the idea down.

For those of you who don't know me, let me introduce myself. My name is Michelle Spier and I'm a fifth-year senior at Castleton. That's right, five painfully long years of cops busting house parties, and nowhere to hang out on campus.

When my last semester finally came around, I decided that there were changes that needed to be made.

I strongly believe that our "small school with a big heart" is lacking something very important: social interaction. Wouldn't it be so great if there were a place to go where you could hang out and interact with all of the people that you "know" on campus, but don't really know?

There is no official name or place as of yet, but there are four students hard at work to make it all happen. Up until last-weeks meetings with Aramark Director Pete Merritt and Dean of Student Greg Stone, we weren't positive that it could actually happen.

"I think it's possible" said Stone, when asked about creating a place in the Fireside Café that could serve alcohol.

Our original idea was to have a pub-type place in the Spartan Room in Huden Dining Hall, but it is currently under construction and it isn't looking good for the near future.

"Even if we do get to the point where the room is useable, where is the money coming from?" Merrit said.

So things are slowly moving in the right direction, but we need support from our fellow Castleton pub supporters, and on March 29 there will be a chance for everyone to get the latest buzz on the pub. From 3 to 5 p.m., there will be an informational open-forum event in Herrick Auditorium, where everyone can learn of the plans and speak their opinions about them.

We're not looking to create a Girls-Gone Wild atmosphere here, more like a Cheers, where everybody knows your name -- or will.

Philosophy dept. to get a major

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Soon students will have the option of spending more time with Aristotle and Plato, making Castleton the only Vermont State College to offer a degree in philosophy.

"It would really underscore the claim to be a liberal arts college," said Bob Johnson who is currently the only full-time philosophy professor.

There are currently nine students attempting a minor in philosophy. To make the program work, CSC would need an estimated minimum of 15 students to major in philosophy.

"We have to buck the trend and get more people to major in philosophy than statistics," said the quirky professor. "It's an active and exciting program."

In order to have a philosophy major, a second full-time professor has to be hired, four or five additional courses in philosophy need to be added, and students who are interested in philosophy need to apply.

For a minor 18 credits is needed and will be upped to 36 credits for a major, including a seminar and a senior thesis.

Academic dean Joe Mark stated that he has had sit down meetings with students who left Castleton because of the lack of a philosophy major.

Johnson spouted off many reasons to be a philosophy major, including the tendency for these students to score higher on their GREs and the wide range of careers a major in philosophy opens up.

"The reason why businesses like philosophy majors is because they have excellent skills in decision making, organization, logic, and they learn how to tackle problems," Johnson said.

The philosophy program has grown extensively in the twenty years since Johnson arrived here as the only philosophy professor for three classes each semester. Now philosophy has three adjuncts alongside Johnson to teach nine or ten classes each semester.

After being passed on March 6 by the faculty assembly, the proposed major still needs to be passed by the trustee board made up of students and education personnel which Mark is hoping will be passed later this semester or early next semester.

"I'd come back for a philosophy major," Steve Hartman, a graduating senior, said half joking. "It makes you think about how things could be and explain them a lot more."

Mark hopes to have the program in place by fall of 2008, but the optimistic philosophy professor hopes that it will be sooner.

"It's conceivable for this fall. I'm not sure," Johnson said. "I'm being really optimistic."

The Plato Prize

$100 for the best essay in PHILOSOPHY

The Plato Prize is awarded by the English, Philosophy, and Modern Foreign Language Department for the best student essay in philosophy during the academic year.

Submissions should address a subject in philosophy. That includes issues, theories, or figures in the history of philosophy, philosophy of science, comparative religion, philosophy of art, political philosophy, and ethics.

Submissions may be essays that are originally written for a course. However, applicants should submit a clean copy for the competition.

Submissions should be written in the academic year of the award.

Submissions should be double-spaced, no more than 10 pages in length, and appropriately documented and formatted.

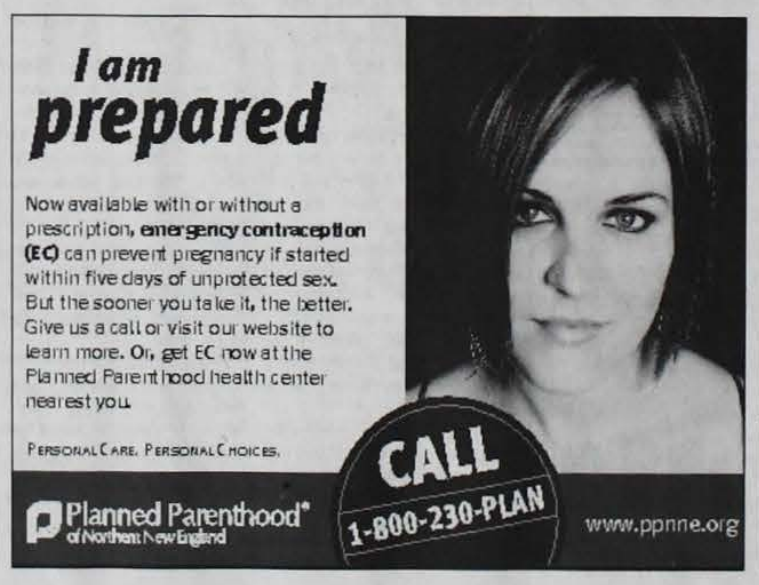
Submissions will be judged on the basis of their clarity, originality, and philosophical acumen.

Submit entries to any of the Philosophy Professors

Deadline: Tuesday, April 10, 2007
Announcement of the Award: April 27, 2007
Contact: Professor Bob Johnson, LH 161, 468-1294

Who wants to be a porn star?

Reel Action slide presentation on the porn industry @ 5:30 p.m.
March 26th in Herrick.
Free Pizza!
Free and open to the public.
Feminist critic-in honor of women's history month.



FACULTY COLUMN

Jennifer Bagley

He strode to the front of the classroom, grabbed a piece of chalk and wrote, "18, 21, 22" and "No" large on the chalkboard, a 6-foot-3 freshman, doing a presentation for Effective Speaking.

'What do you think of then you see this?" he asked, pointing to the first number.

The class rang out with the obvious answers: the age of majority, eligibility for the military, marriage, legal contracts, and voting.

"And this?" indicting the second number. There were unanimous answers about the legal drinking age.

He then pointed to the third and fourth items, saying, "This is how old I am now, and no, I will not buy your liquor for you."

To the class's surprise, it turned out our speaker was indeed a 22-year-old freshman, and he told his story of why.

One unsuccessful semester at Vermont Technical College and then two-and-a-half years of driving a truck convinced him that a career in a semi's cab was not for him.

Luckily he'd stayed active on the basketball court in the meantime, and so enrolled at Castleton, sure now of what he wanted out of a college experience. His fellow classmates called him "Dad" after that, and it was clear that Jeremy Jorgenson was on the road to success.

Not only will he graduate this spring, in four years, but he also has brought his reputation as a hard-working good guy to the basketball team, pulling down rebounds every game, and earning the praises from the refs on the circuit, who tell President David Wolk that they always enjoy doing games when Jeremy is on the court. That day in class illustrates why it's interesting and fun to teach at CSC. Students often surprise me.

Like Melanie, the art student, who plunged through knee deep snow drifts on a wintry Sunday to take photos of the Corinthian, Ionic and Doric pillars on display on Castleton's Main street for part of her speech on architecture.

The "non-traditional" students are especially intriguing, since they often have a clearer focus and a stronger work ethic than the "regular freshmen." They provide alternate perspectives about the world out there, responsibilities to jobs and family as well as class work.

Some of them came back to us after having been in Iraq. Steve and Bethany are different people when we see them back on campus. Some stay around after graduation, working for the college in new capacities, like Jeff in coaching and sports communication, and Brian in the media center, fixing all technical glitches.

I enjoy following the careers of the students in my freshman classes. I see them in the community later on, as teachers, nurses, and coaches. I get to work with them as SOS advisors to my FYS classes. I enjoy watching my first-year students take on active leadership roles in campus life.

There is Carley shining on and off the court, Mike and Chris writing good pieces for the Spartan, Derrick and Mike turning from hockey players to trainers and coaches, Chet and Melissa captaining the rugby clubs, Kevin and Courtney shining on stage.

My former freshmen serve as RAs in the dorms, hang one woman shows in the gallery spaces, publish their photography, man the library, work technical magic with computers and film. They perform great music in the chorus and band, help run the dean's office, organize the cheerleaders, and captain the men's soccer team. It all keeps me coming back, eager to see how the freshmen begin their college career in my classes, and then take off to become vital parts of the college community. What's the surprise gonna be next week?

SOUNDING OFF

all your SOUNDINGS information IN ONE SPOT

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Was it a success? A flop? Please contact a Soundings instructor or Spartan advisor David Blow to share your thoughts.

EVENT COUNTDOWN

11 LEFT

Quotable Lines:

An Inconvenient Truth
Did the film and discussion change your views on global warming? If so, how? If not, why not?

"No, I'm convinced that global warming will not affect me. Yes it will eventually be a problem, but not as soon as they think." -- Kenneth Cook

"This film and discussion didn't really change my ideas or opinions on global warming, since I already knew a fair deal about global warming. However, it did inspire me to take further action in order to prevent a gloomy future. " -- Max Duell

" . . . I knew of the problem, but the media's attempt to change my opinion was something of interest. I now see past the media's lies." --Sarah Parker

Which of Mr. Gore's argument's did you find most convincing and why?

"I appreciated the fact that Gore recognizes global warming as a moral issue and not a political issue." -- Max Duell

"I found the image of our ice caps melting and raising our oceans to be an extremely powerful image." -- Kimberly Lyons

Winner!!!--The first ever Soundings Attendance Award goes to Brooke Suprenant who attended 12 events in Fall 2006. She wins a $50 gift certificate to the Paramount Theatre.

Coming up Next:

Theatre
March 21-24, 8:00 p.m., March 25, 2:00 p.m., FAC Casella Theater, Twelfth Night
Disguise, deception, love, laughter, ridicule, and revelations--who will end up with whom? Who will be the hero and who the fool?

Dance
March 28th, 7:00 p.m., FAC Casella Theatre, "Color-ography: The Dances of Jacob Lawrence," Dayton Contemporary Dance Company
Jacob Lawrence created powerful, color-filled paintings which the dance company's performance interprets some of the most famous of these paintings.

Science
March 29th, 12:30 p.m., Black Science Auditorium, Brad Coupe, Phi Eta Sigma lecture
"Misconceptions about Preconceptions: Biologists are People, Too"

Stage Left presents Twelfth Night

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

From March 21-25, Stage Left (the CSC theatre club) will be presenting the Shakespeare play Twelfth Night. Twelfth Night's main plot takes place in the fantasy land of Illyria. The characters are involved in a comedic spin on a love triangle and "all kinds of mistaken identity wackiness," said Harry MacEnerny, who is the director and has been working with Stage Left for 10 years.

Many of the actors feel that the play is difficult to work with. Jesse Durona, who plays Sir Toby, said it's challenging, but more rewarding. "I feel I understand Shakespeare a bit more".

Because of the challenging aspects of the play the actors have to prepare themselves more.

"Every play has a different set of challenges" McEnerny said. Most of the actors have said that the dialogue was the biggest issue. Adam Desautels, who is performing for the first time here at CSC in the role of Antonio, said "learning the lines was probably the hardest part".

McEnerny noted that the biggest challenge of this play is the language barrier. He sat down with each individual actor and went over their lines to find their meaning. He wanted to make sure the actors knew how to "give [the dialogue] an action and a purpose." If the actors understand what the lines mean then they will have an easier time getting the audience to know what they are saying.

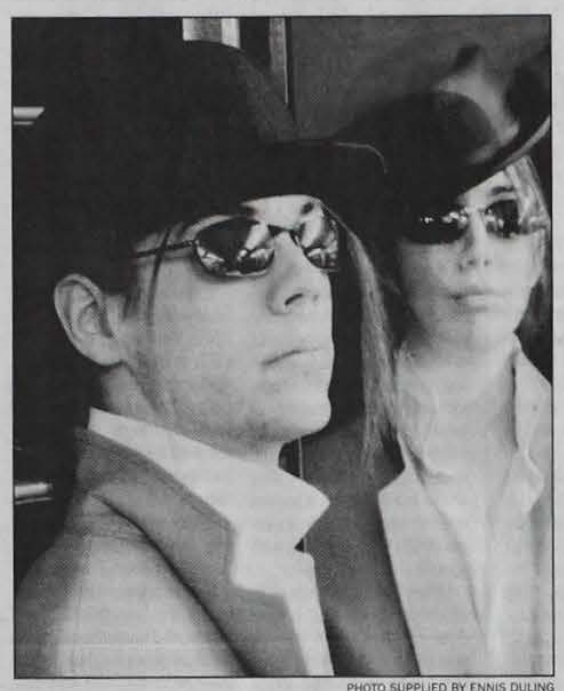


PHOTO SUPPLIED BY ENNIS DULING

Jonathan White and Elsa McLaughlinplay Sebastian and Viola in the upcoming theater production Twelfth Night.

Jonathon White, who plays Sebastian, has acted in two other performances at CSC. White has a different view on working with the Shakespearian language, "Typically I find Shakespeare easier to memorize because the prose are like song lyrics".

Beyond studying her lines, Joanna Cardillo who plays the part of the servant in her second CSC play, said she also does crunches, breath of fire (a yoga breathing exercise) and she has to practice laughing uncontrollably.

Elsa Mclaughlan, who plays Viola and is also in her second CSC play, said it is important to understand the lines and to give an accurate performance because, "People take Shakespeare like the Bible".

Twelfth Night might be a challenging play, but McEnerny said, "It's important for actors to experience Shakespeare…at college we should do challenging material".

The biggest point that the actors and director wanted to tell everyone was that the audience should leave what they already know about Shakespeare outside of the theatre.

" People need to take it for what it is [and] set aside a set disposition," said Cardillo.

"Don't have reservations about Shakespeare, have an open mind," White said.

McEnerny supported his actors saying, " We are working hard to get rid of preconceived notions. You should be open-minded about it. You may enjoy this."

Talking about the process of putting the play together McEnerny said, "It's been a great challenge. I've had a wonderful time."

Religion at CSC takes many forms

By Mike Weins and William Laderoute
Spartan Contributors

Walking around campus, you may not be able to find an immediate religious presence -- but it's there.

Castleton State College may not be a religion-focused campus, but there are students and faculty who have strong and unique feelings about spirituality.

English Professor Burnham Holmes said he is not aware of any religious movement on campus, but from time to time students will speak about spirituality. He said he does not see himself as a religious person, but as a spiritual person.

"It helps us in the long range and the day to day … so you're not so concerned with your two squares of the universe," said Holmes.

Holmes said he does not try to influence others to adopt his beliefs, but he tells his students to do the best they can and don't make excuses.

Sophomore student Eric Seel, a mass media major, said he feels the same way.

"I attempt to lead my life in a way that allows me to find spiritual fulfillment. There are times when … I am walking in the woods, or swimming in a lake, or even just sitting enjoying life -- I get something out of that, something I can only explain as spiritual," he said.

Craig Haley, a junior, believes that all religions have there own place in this world and even if you do not believe in a set religion "you'll always find yourself talking to God right before you die, so you might as well have said a few things to him in the meantime."

"Anything that gives a person a set of morals and something to believe in is a good thing, no matter what faith you practice," said Haley, a non-practicing Catholic.

There are also students who do not consider themselves religious or spiritual. Deb Gragen, a junior, said "I don't practice a religion, but technically I'm Roman Catholic."

Gragen was a practicing Catholic, but only until she was 13.

"My parents didn't make me go any more and I didn't think it was important any more so I stopped going," she said.

Dan Cook mirrors Gragen's beliefs. Cook, also a junior, said he has been a Christian, "since I was born practically," but he only goes to church on Christmas.

Rebecca, a senior sociology major who declined to use her last name for fear of opposition, has shunned traditional religions to practice Wicca.

She has been practicing Wicca since she was 12 years old. Before then, she was raised Catholic. Her introduction to Wicca was from a news special on two girls who at school openly said they practiced Wicca and were singing songs about a goddess. Consequently they were made to leave the school because of their actions.

Rebecca told her mother she wanted to study Wicca and her mother was very open to her decision. She was so open that Rebecca's mother bought her first book on Wicca, which she still has.

As part of her practice Rebecca performs spells, which "use energy, representations and items to manifest energy for your self growth."

She also practices the belief that no one should harm the free will of others and to act without negativity.

Throughout the years of her practicing Wicca, she has dealt with many misconceptions, mainly that Wicca is Satan worshiping.

"Some call it Satan worshiping, but Satan is a Christian concept. Wiccans don't believe in Satan," she said. "I believe there are many paths to God. My beliefs change all the time. It's important to question and be open-minded."

REVIEWS

AUDIO

Villebillies

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

You have to love when a girl tells you "I'd really skank it up to this song in the club" referring to the song 'Talkin' Stupid.'

If you have seen me dancing my way to class the past few weeks, it's because I'm listening to The Villebillies. The band's debut album came into WIUV in late September.

The Villebillies are very interesting, in part because their membership totals 10 people in all. They are the product of the merger of two Louisville Kentucky bands, the Villebilles and rock band Plan of Man.

The Villebillies consist of five vocalists, acoustic guitarist Adam Goff, electric guitarist Justin Reid, bass guitarist Ron Ping, and keyboardist BJ Young along with drummer Tip E Toe.

The band has its own unique sound that incorporates many different influences. It would be impossible to label them under a single genre. The band mixes blues, country, blue grass and southern rock with modern hip-hop.

It is not very often that I can listen to a whole album and like every single song, but that's the case with this album. If I had to pick out three songs, I would have to say my favorites are 'Mr. Brown Bag', 'Talkin' Stupid' and 'Greatest Moment'.

'Mr. Brown Bag' has primarily a country or southern rock feel, but there are some elements of hip-hop. The song is a good example of the band's reoccurring alcohol theme.

"Well me and Mr. Brown Bag we got a past and every time I try to quit it bites me in the ass. I know it sounds bad when people say that I'm an addict, just when I think I don't know, I got to have it. I knew I couldn't stop since the day I begun and I've been trying to kick the habit since 2001," is an example of that theme.

'Talkin' Stupid' is a club banger. This song is a straight up hip-hop song that you'd expect to hear while making your body pop at a nightclub. The song also features hip-hop artist Nappy Roots.

The song's chorus goes like this: "I'll talk stupid if I want to, you goin' like it fine, fine, you goin' shake assets, you wont you use your mind, mind, I will use sarcasm, casm, your hips will be havin' spasms, you won't have to think what's been nothing you cannot fathom, ha ha ha."

The song 'Greatest Moment' is an inspiring anthem. It starts with a beautiful piano solo and then goes into some hard-hitting vocals.

This song really hits home with me because the vocalist speaks of "a friend that can't get right, putting that powder up his nose every day and night." It reminds me of my best friend who became a crystal meth and crack cocaine addict shortly after returning home from Iraq. Luckily he's clean at the present moment.

If you've never heard the Villebillies, I suggest you call WIUV and request that the DJ slaps them in the CD player, just tell them Uncle Dave said so. There are no real bands that come into mind when trying to describe the Villebillies, you will just have to give them a listen.

VIDEO

An Inconvenient Truth

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

As you may know, Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" was shown in the Glenbrook Gymnasium as a Soundings event. I had the opportunity to watch the film and I am glad I did.

If Al Gore were making a presentation for an effective speaking class, then this would be the ultimate presentation. "An Inconvenient Truth" is basically a 100-minute PowerPoint speech on global warming. The catch is that it's not your average "he's reading from the screen, I think I'm going to fall asleep" presentation. It's an in-depth look and an easy to understand explanation of what global warming is, what it's doing to the earth and how we can try to stop it.

When Al Gore first starts the presentation he explains what global warming is. At first he explains it going straight to the point, but then he gives us the friendly cartoon version. This version pokes fun at global warming and according to him he prefers this version more. There is also a cartoon involving a frog, which while being humorous it strengthened his point.

Having these pleasant disruptions changes the pace of the movie so it doesn't seem to drag on.

There are other occurrences like this where he would show other footage besides the PowerPoint presentation. It mainly consisted of him making the PowerPoint presentation, gathering information and trying to get global warming onto the government's agenda.

He also showed his personal life, which I don't think was all that necessary. The scenes about his son or his friend from his childhood did not seem essential to prove his point on global warming. It still would have been a good film without it.

Showing his involvement in the past strengthens his stand that this is actually an old problem and he's been trying to put it out in the open for a long time. This is why he started doing the PowerPoint presentations around the globe.

With having these "pleasant disruptions" you are not listening to a monotone speaker or starting to zone out because you are becoming increasingly bored. They add some variety and change the pace of the presentation.

The turn out for the film was pretty good and included some faculty members. Most of the place seemed pretty filled so I'm guessing more than just Sounding students came to the showing. The audience seemed positive about the film; they didn't boo at the end, which is always a good thing.

If you didn't get to go to the Soundings event then I defiantly recommend you rent or buy "An Inconvenient Truth", either to be enlighten that there are people fighting against global warming or to learn more about global warming. For whatever reason you choose to watch the movie, just know that it's a great PowerPoint presentation.

Jumps

Rally participants met with some resistence

: Peace
From page 1

Many motorists traveling down the slippery streets of Rutland could be heard blaring their car horns in support of the demonstrators, often chanting phrases such as "down with war!" or "impeach Bush!" from their frosty side windows. Others were less enthused, choosing instead to drive by shouting obscenities and heckling the protesters from the safety of their vehicles.

"I'm in the military!" a man screamed from his blue minivan, as he threw a giant thumbs-down gesture across the street at the protestors.

Although the protest was met with mostly warm reception, there were a few people who felt that the demonstration was in poor taste. The largest object of controversy revolved around a certain set of costumes worn by various protestors.

The costumes resembled disfigured Iraqi women, draped in black hoods, standing expressionless and silent - each clinging to the mangled and bloodied body of the lifeless infant child in their hands.

"We made them with the help of a friend who worked in the Bread and Puppet Circus for years and years," Jane Newton said from within the interior of the 7-foot-high costume.

"Pretty soon we'll be calling them Iranian ladies with their dead babies," Newton said.

Carol Tashie, director of CVPJ, said she believes the images of the battered children and their mothers helped serve as a reminder of the realities of war, which may help persuade more people to stand up and take action against it.

"As we all know, the greatest casualties of any war are women and children," Tashie said.

Others didn't seem to find the costumes to be anything but repulsive, believing them to be more of a slap in the face of the U.S. troops than a political statement.

Patricia Jillson stood strongly outside of the 2nd Battalion 172nd Armory on West Street in support of her son, a 12-year veteran of the U.S. National Guard who is currently stationed just outside of Baghdad.

"I'm against this war, but as long as my son is over there, I have to support his decision to be there," Jillson said.

Jillson also said she understood the need to protest the war, but also denounced the use of dead babies as a means of doing it.

"Have your rally, do your march, but don't do the other stuff," Jillson said. "That's killer. Our boys aren't over there intending to kill babies."

PHOTO BY MATTHEW SARGENT

A protesterof the war displays a sign on Sunday.

Jillson's son was communicating with his family via satellite video from Baghdad at the time of the interview, just inside the armory behind her.

"I have a grandson who wanted to know what was in the arms [of the costumes]," she said. "How do you tell a 4-year-old, who's in here now to see his dad, ya know?"

A Castleton student, who wished to remain anonymous because of fears of discrimination, also supported Jillson's view of the war.

"You should support the war out of respect for those soldiers that are over there trying to accomplish a goal, instead of sitting here disrespecting them and protesting the goddamned war," she said with fire in her eyes.

She also mentioned seeing a soldier in uniform standing on the opposite side of the street from the protestors, yelling and screaming in defense of his fellow troops.

"He was so angry," she said. "I think he was drunk, but I also think he had every right to be angry. This isn't right."

At 3 p.m. the crowd began to march down West Street, slipping and sliding as it struggled to keep its footing on the ice-glazed hill. Eventually it came to a stop inside the Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Church - amidst stained-glass windows and electric guitars.

Punk rockers decked in painted-on pants and spiked leather vests scattered themselves about the musty church. Other people, everyone young and old, hippies and soccer moms, filled the pews with their eager minds and ears.

Various individuals took turns speaking their mind to a crowd of dozens. Matt Kimball also made his voice heard to great applause, passionately denouncing the war and its potential affect on generations to come.

"My future and the future of all my fellow youth is destroyed," Kimball said.

Joseph Gainza, field director of the American Friends Service Committee and "tireless activist," took a few minutes to give a history of war in the U.S. He also offered up some possible ideas that may better the country, as well as the rest of the world.

Gainza applauded President Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor Policy" as an ideal alternative to the current administration's policies, as it was designed to create a "mutual respect between the world's people."

"We need to control the people in control," Gainza said to booming applause.

Hannah Kretvix, a blonde-haired 13-year-old Mill River student, spoke briefly about the difficulties of making the voices of youth resound on a national level, especially at times when no one seems to be listening.

"Being in a peace movement makes me feel like my thoughts and opinions are being heard," Kretvix said. "Sometimes the best thing you can do isn't the cool thing to do."

A number of bands also took the stage for their cause, ranging in musical style from 60's era protest songs to punk-thrash metal mayhem.

With the help of her Martin acoustic guitar, Melissa Chestnut-Tangerman's angelic voice echoed Joan Baez's best work as she sang through the chorus of The Youngblood's classic "Get Together"-- a tune that seemed to sum up the day in one great, big, patriotic nutshell

"C'mon people now, smile on your brother, ev'rybody get together, try to love one another right now."

Students boast of Huden thefts

: Huden
From page 1

the rules. Others, he acknowledged, are knowingly taking advantage of the cafeteria.

"I can't blame them for not knowing the rules, although others are purposely sneaking things," he said.

The rules in Huden have not changed since Merritt has taken over, but he believes the rules were not strongly enforced before this year. Because of this, a lot of students probably don't know when they are doing something they aren't supposed to be doing, he said.

Signs explaining what is and isn't allowed for meal plan residents have recently been posted throughout Huden to make sure that students do know what is acceptable. Merritt said that the rules will also be clearly stated in next year's meal plan guidelines so all incoming students will know the rules from the beginning.

These signs may stop some students from letting a friend use his or her meal plan card to get a free meal, although there are others who know what they are doing and simply don't care.

One student, who spoke on the condition of remaining anonymous, admitted that he has taken just about everything from Huden over the past three years.

"Full napkin holders, salt and pepper shakers, cups, utensils, trays, loaves of bread, pies, meat, cheese," he paused for a moment, and then continued "knives they use to cut the meat, a basket, and oh yeah a fire extinguisher," he concluded with a smile.

"I don't still have any of it. Most of the things I used once and then threw away. It was more about seeing it and wondering if I could get it then actually needing it," he said.

He said the best thing he took were the trays that he and his friends would use behind Ellis Hall as skis during the winter - one tray under each foot.

Another student, who also didn't want his name printed, said that he has taken cups, utensils, and other necessities needed to fill his apartment.

Capping off his list is a "Caution: wet floors" sign. "Most of what I've taken I still use," he said between gulps of water from his clear, mass-produced Huden cup. "The wet floor sign I don't use so much for its given purpose, but it's in the living room and gets kicked around a lot."

He said he understands that meal plans may go up next year because of his and others who steal from Huden, but that it doesn't bother him because he won't have a meal plan next year.

Freshmen, Nic "Powerhouse" Soares, said he has never stolen from Huden.

"One time I asked if I could take a fortune cookie and they said yes so I did, but that's all I've taken from there," he said.

Soares knows what he is and isn't allowed to take from the dining hall and he believes that most other students do also.

"I'd be upset if the meal plan went up next year because I will be buying one, so I do care that people are stealing. Although, I know people who do and I'm not going to say anything. As long as I'm not doing it my conscience is clear," Soares said.

Another student, Michael Lindblad, said that he has taken food out of the café to eat it at his room because he doesn't understand why that isn't allowed. He doesn't think it is right that people are stealing some things just for the sake of stealing them though.

"Why would you steal it if you aren't going to use it? That's just dumb," he said.

Merritt admits that it's hard to police people's actions inside of Huden because so much is going on, but he has goals to first inform students, and then hope they get the point that it's only going to raise the price of next year's meals.

"We are doing our best to manage student's money, but if they give food away to their friends or take things that need to be replaced, it changes our expenses. It will just make next year's meal plan cost more money," Merritt said.

Madden now fights against war

: Madden
From page 1

While in Iraq, he said he did not speak out against war because he, like many other soldiers, feel that they are just doing their job and putting in their time because they agreed to sign up.

"I didn't fight the war because I was brave," he added.

Wearing a black and white shirt that read, "IRAQ VETERAN AGAINST WAR," Madden emphasized the importance of college students and change throughout history. He said that we need to become a people-oriented society and change the "me" mentality to an "us" view because the world we live in is shaped for us currently.

One audience member asked Madden how students could get motivated when there is a fear of police presence and personal danger from protests.

"People make sacrifices when current culture makes that possible," said Madden, who appeared in Rutland in November.

He added that until it is cool to care, nothing will get done, and he asked the audience how to make it cool?

Communications professor Tom Conroy helped bring Madden to Castleton following an e-mail from Professor Carrie Waara and publicity about the Appeal for Redress on National Public Radio.

Conroy said many students know someone in Iraq and Madden is a Vermonter, and even went to high school with some of the students in the audience. He has spoken at University of California campuses, Rutgers University, and the University of Vermont among many other schools and is playing a part in history with his appeal for redress.

Conroy said that Madden's speech was powerful because of intergenerational communication, and it is more effective for students to hear from a peer.

"He had a good sense of history and emphasized that," Conroy said.

He also said that it is important for people to make personal contacts with other activists.

Madden is trying to establish a network across the country and took contact information from Castleton with the help of Matt Kimball, Reel Action president. He is continuing his tour with a visit to Washington, D.C. among countless other stops.

Burglary still unsolved

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Every time David Campbell is in the Diamond Run Mall, he strolls the aisles of Electronic Boutique to check the serial numbers of the videogames.

He compares the serial numbers against those he wrote down from the boxes of the games that were stolen from him two weeks ago on Friday, March 2.

Campbell, whose hockey equipment was stolen as well, was told that he would have to go through the games himself and said he received little help from Public Safety and the Castleton Police Department to help get his stuff back.

"No one was really that helpful," Campbell said. "I expected a little more from the state police."

Initially, there was miscommunication between Public Safety and some students who had their belongings stolen. Campbell's roommate, Steve Bowder, said he is "pissed off" at Public Safety and instead reported his missing stuff through the Castleton Police Department, though the two are working together.

Public Safety officer Bill Duczeminski, said that he passed his information to the CPD officer Gary Boutin, who denied knowing about the burglary when questioned.

"We do the initial investigation and what we find we turn into them," Duczeminski said.

Nick Johnson, who also had things stolen from his room on March 2, stated that his experience with Public Safety was "a mess."

"It sucked," he said heatedly. "They didn't do a damn thing."

Going past Public Safety and CDP, Johnson went to school officials to detail how his suite door didn't lock until the morning after his stuff was stolen. He was told to go through his parent's insurance. He stated that if the insurance feels there is a case, they'll take it up with the school.

"Hopefully they do," Johnson said, explaining that he would get more money to replace his stolen snowboard, iPod, and laptop.

Public Safety officials said they are still working on the case, although Campbell feels like they have forgotten about it.

Duczeminski said that not much can be done until the games are pawned, but they have still been talking to students to see if anyone has heard or seen anything, noting that even after the burglary the back door to Castleton Hall remains to be blocked open.

At this point, Duczeminski is not sure if the stolen items were taken out of the building at the time they were stolen.

"The biggest thing students can do is lock their doors, lock suite doors, if they see something suspicious give us a call," Duczeminski said. "That's what we do here. We're looking out for students' well-being."

Bradford Waterhouse

Girls don't poop. I'm thoroughly convinced of this. I'm also thoroughly convinced that if they do, it's roses. Bright red and white roses.

I don't think there's a guy reading this right now that even wants to think about what it means if that statement is a false one.

This very fact makes it very, very awkward to go to the bathroom at an all-girls school if you're a dude.

I only make such a statement because I've done such a thing. It's a chore, sometimes an embarrassment, always a slight thrill and never disappointing.

And just once, it was a complete fiasco.

My girlfriend goes to Smith College, in Massachusetts and I've been visiting her for close to three years now. I usually go down for the weekend, which is way too long to hold it. I usually manage through Saturday night but come Sunday, it's uncontrollable. It's not even an option to hold it anymore. It's usually early AM when we wake that I make the quiet trek down the third floor hallway, past dozens of closed doors blocking off the girls, sweetly sleeping, unaware of the visceral bombardment about to violate their senses.

CLUMPCLUMPCLUMP

My shoes always hit much harder than I want them to, the old wooden floors of the dormitory sucking the sound from my shoes and shooting it back out like horse hooves. Being quiet never works.

Slinking slowly toward the door, I'm always afraid someone will "catch" me, someone who knows what I'm about to do. All I need is some girl to walk into the bathroom behind me to pee. She knows the smell and everyone on the floor knows what I look like.

They can't know that I do this here. They certainly don't do it here.

This time, I made it to the bathroom without incident. The door makes a strange kind of swooshclang every time I enter and search around, making a quick check underneath the stalls before…

SWOOSHCLANG

Someone came in behind me! I leaped into the nearest stall, slamming the door behind me and sat on the toilet, pants still up. I held my breath as I waited, not wanting to do my business until the person left. I had to wait.

Of course, the door in the stall next to mine closed. I was hoping it was just a tooth brushing but I'd have to wait longer now. But not much. Just a pee.

There are certain times in your life that your entire worldview explodes inside your head. Everything you ever thought comes crashing down and you have to rethink things. It's usually only one instance, one strange going-on that does it. All it takes is for one of your rock-solid beliefs to crack for you to wonder "If I'm wrong about THIS, what else am I wrong about?"

Since that day I've been upset that there wasn't a mirror on the back of that stall door. When the smell hit I'm convinced that my face exploded.

I wanted to move or scream or something but I couldn't. I just stared at the door, attempting to hold my breath for what felt like three solid days. It was so bad I could taste it.

Finally, the flush. I snapped back to my senses and opened my eyes. There, by the sink, were feet. Pale, slender feet, with clean-cut, well-trimmed toenails. Bright pink, nail polished toenails.

After she'd left I got up slowly, opened the door, and stumbled my way back to my girlfriend's room, unblinking and paler than usual. I opened the door, waking her. I got back in to bed and she asked what was wrong. I stared straight ahead and shivered. It was the only answer she needed.

She held me until I was calm, and I held it until I got home. My ass hasn't felt the cold porcelain grip of a Smith toilet seat since.

ON THE STREET

Jackie Borelli

Q: If you could trade places with anyone who would it be?

MARIA BURROW

I wouldn't want to trade places with anyone. I like me.

TYLER LONCZAK

Charles Sanders Pierce.

MONIQUE PERREAULT

I think I'd want to be a ball girl for the Boston Red Sox.

DAN COOK

I'd trade places with Tom Cruise, because why not.

MATT TUTHILL

I'd be David Blow, because maybe he'll give me a better grade on my final.

Nice to meet you: *Bill Frey*

Bill Frey is an adjunct professor in the Psychology Department teaching Introduction to Psychology and Theories of Personality. He is also an adjunct professor at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vt.

Jazmin Averbuck, Spartan Staff

Birthday:
"March 28th, end of World War II"
Hometown:
Westfield, New Jersey
Favorite season?
"Fall, because fishing and hunting are the best."
Favorite color?
"Navy blue"
Favorite food?
"Pizza…I like pizza with mushrooms and anchovies."
Favorite song?
"Hmmm…golly, Soul Man by Sam and Dave"

What other jobs have you had?
"Music store when I was in high school and college, I worked as a moonlight musician and I was a clinical psychologist."

What was your dream job growing up?
"To be a general practitioner"

How is teaching at Saint Mike's different than teaching here at Castleton?
"It is a lot less structured in the graduate course [at Saint Mike's] and more structured when teaching undergraduates [at Castleton]"

Psychoanalytic or Behavioral theory?
"Interpersonal interpretation. I use an underpinning of psychoanalytic and incorporate different learning strategies."

What do you enjoy most about teaching psychology?
"I love sharing thoughts on human nature and the scientific methodology of psychology."

Finish this sentence: I would quit my job if…
"John Hammond asked me to go on the road with him."

Any words of wisdom for the students at Castleton State College?
"Learn to enjoy reading."

Alumni Profile

Rocky Harlow
Class of 1985

The CSC experience has a way of drawing people together.

It burrows under your skin and refuses to let go, burrowing deeper still with each passing semester.

Once it completes its journey, it encircles your heart in a death grip that cannot be disengaged, no matter how strenuous your effort.

Yes, that's right.

Once that happens you're hooked for life. There's no use fighting it.

It hooked me deeply and permanently soon after my arrival at "The Rock" for freshman orientation.

The surroundings were perfect: Lush, green Vermont mountains that burned with the fire of foliage in autumn, then softened to the pale blues and grays of winter, only to be transformed once again to the rich and vibrant lushness that spring ushers in.

This is the Castleton I came to in the fall of 1981 and this is the Castleton I still know and love to this day.

I had just come off a one-year international tour with 'Up With People' that was truly unforgettable. I had thought that year would be the highlight of my life and could never be eclipsed.

After all, my cast had performed for the King of Sweden, the Prime Minister of Ireland, and had toured and performed with the Belgian National Symphony in honor of that country's 350th anniversary.

We would have performed at the 1980 Moscow Olympics had the United States not boycotted the games that year.

What could possibly improve on that?

In short: Castleton State College.

My first two years were spent feeling my collegiate oats, so to speak.

The newfound freedom from a tour where every minute of every day was planned for you was exhilarating. I didn't have to worry about what time I returned from an all-night work session in the theatre, that is unless there was homework still to be done for class the next day.

It was exceptionally easy to make friends on campus and many of them I still hold dear to this day.

I somehow managed to fit in two years of playing baseball for a coach I deeply respected both as a coach and as a friend.

I sincerely hope the CSC community recognizes just how special Jim Thieser truly was and how much he did for the school. I'll miss you coach.

The next two years were spent as a resident assistant, first in Wheeler Hall, then in Ellis Hall.

Looking back, I am still amazed at how quickly my junior and senior years passed by.

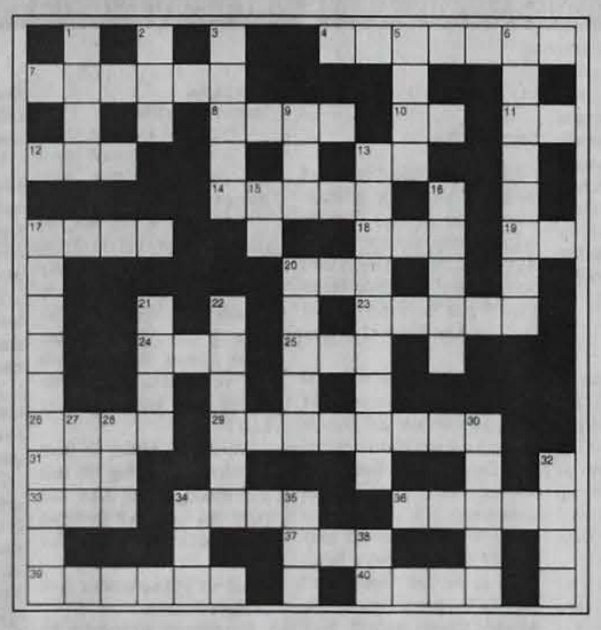
In 1985 I was deeply honored to be one of the inaugural recipients of the Abel E Leavenworth Leadership Award.

I never considered myself to be of the leadership type and there were certainly more qualified students on campus for this honor, at least from my point of view.

Castleton will always hold a special place in my heart for a number of reasons: First, I applied for admission without seeing the campus first, and have never once regretted it. Second, I met my wife there. We were married in the Old Chapel and had our reception in Huden Dining Hall. Third, I met some of my closest, dearest friends there. We are still constantly in touch and get together regularly. Four, where else can a cleaning lady key into your room at 6:30 a.m. on Halloween morning wearing a clown costume and a smile?

Thank you, Rose Harvey!

So easy a college student could do it



Down

1. Final Fantasy black magic specialist
2. Much ___ about nothing
3. Fancy cup
5. Dust bunny cadaver
6. Boxing move
9. Number of commandments
13. 2006 World Series Champs
15. A commercial, for one
16. End of a shoe lace
17. Spaceballs' Vador
20. Journalist's question
21. Soul's window
22. Mmm Boppers
27. Despondency
28. What may have come first.
30. 1st pig's building material
32. Wildcat
34. Beer familiar
35. Move away
38. Afterthought

Across

4. Manassas battle-place 1861
7. 7th reindeer
8. __ up! (Poker)
10. A 2yr. old's favorite word
11. Mathematical dessert
12. A pool stick
13. __ Scan (abbr.)
14. Sri ___
17. Not dusk
18. Lies cheaply
19. Odorless, poisonous gas (abbr.)
20. To be married
23. For example in Latin
24. Yes
25. A long time
26. Lady sheep
29. Superbowl X Champs
31. To record
33. Girl's nickname
34. Green Gables dweller
36. Fencing: ___ and thrust.
37. Cowboy Be-___
39. Hitch up
40. Killed

Created by Seth Tuper

Non-Trad speaks

Susan Hernandez

Last week in class I heard two students discussing cheating.

One of them thought that he might have to cheat to pass the test that we were about to take. They talked about the pros and cons of cheating verses taking the test unprepared.

Just the idea of cheating on a test shocked me, because it would not occur to me to cheat.

I was aware that cheating is a growing problem in schools, but these students were discussing it out in the open, before the teacher came in.

If someone were about to cheat, it seemed strange that he would share that information in an open classroom.

There was no guilt attached to the discussion, no shame, and no thought that others in the room might judge him.

I looked around at all my fellow students. No one seemed upset, bothered, or shocked. No one even batted an eye, except for me.

I was uncomfortable with the knowledge that one of my fellow students might cheat. I had an attack of conscience.

What was my role here in this classroom? In my other life as an adult, a parent, community member or authority figure, I would know what to do. Yet, here I was a student, one of them. Granted, I am 47 years old, and they are somewhere between 18 and 25. But this is not about age -- it is about integrity.

If one person in a class cheats, it reflects on the integrity of the whole class. It is the core of dishonesty.

The person who cheated was not cheating me, only himself. He used the excuse that he did not have time to study, but that was just a cop out.

So why did I care? As part of the class, did I owe loyalty to these people? Would I be a snitch if I told? What exactly was my obligation here? I wrestled with those questions until the teacher came in. The test was handed out, and I set about taking it.

I kept my eyes down and I had an attack of guilt. Why was I feeling guilty? I was not the one who was thinking about cheating.

I had studied for the test. I put it out of my mind to concentrate on the test. After the class I still felt uncomfortable with the knowledge that someone might have been dishonest.

I reasoned that it was not my responsibility to police the classroom. My obligation was to be a student, not a teacher.

Yet I still felt uncomfortable.

In reality, I did not know if the student ended up cheating, because I did not see him do it. I had only heard him say he might have to cheat. This is how I justified doing nothing. Yet, I still have this sneaky little feeling that maybe my integrity had gotten a little bruised.

I may have been the one who copped out.

I felt sad. Sad for a student who did not see anything wrong with cheating and sad for a generation that finds cheating so commonplace that it does not shock them. And sad because I had just become one of them.

Baseball

Spartans start off with .500 record

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ENNIS DULING

Shawn Horvath(25) makes contact in a game last season.

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

The sweet sound of the ball meeting an aluminum bat. The perfect changeup that freezes a batter for strike three. The smoothness of turning a double play.

Baseball is in the air folks.

The Castleton Spartans took the mound and kicked off the 2007 season away from home, but are picking up right where they left off.

In his seventh year at the helm, manager Ted Shipley only lost two seniors from last year's team. Among notable names returning are veteran third baseman Phil Puleo and shortstop Tim Zorio.

The Spartans, whom finished last season with a record of 23-19 and 7-5 in conference play, were picked for third place in the North Atlantic Conference's preseason poll.

Castleton opened the season with a doubleheader against The Apprentice School in Newport News, Va.

In the first game, the Spartans jumped out to a 5-0 lead after four innings and cruised to a 9-2 victory. Freshman Ken Cook pitched four scoreless innings and allowed only a trio of hits en route to the win. First baseman Shawn Horvath led the Spartan offense, going 2-for-3 and driving in three runs.

After getting 13 hits in the opener, The Apprentice School held Castleton to eight and delivered a 9-3 blow to split the twin bill. Craig Borgen took the loss in his first start, surrendering seven hits and four earned runs in three innings. Chris Ragis, Billy Bruneau and catcher Kyle Brooks each had RBI base-knocks.

The Spartans stayed in Virginia and faced Christopher Newport University in a doubleheader the very next day. Castleton dropped game one 7-1 while being out-hit 11-4, two of which came from second baseman Anthony DiPietrantonio.

The second game proved to be a heartbreaker for the Spartans.

Castleton squandered a 5-0 lead when starter Tom Cummings gave up seven runs in the fourth inning. Freshman leftfielder Jon Handy went 2-for-3 with a pair of RBIs.

Shipley's squad headed to Tampa for a four-game trip, in which they came away with three wins.

They defeated Skidmore 8-5 and swept Colby-Sawyer with dominant scores of 13-1 and 9-0, but suffered a 6-5 loss at the hands of Wentworth Institute.

The Spartans, 4-4, will play a doubleheader at Coast Guard Academy Sunday.

Men's Lacrosse

Is this finally their year?

By Shannon Sciria
Spartan Staff

As the winter sports come to a close, the Castleton State Spartan spring sports teams will be hitting the field with high expectations for the 2007 season.

The men's lacrosse team comes off three seasons in a row with a huge rate of success, but coming up one win short every year of a North Atlantic Conference championship.

"Our goal is to take the North Atlantic Conference title and in doing so receive an Automatic Qualifier to the NCAA tournament," said fourth year head coach Dave Wiezalis.

Wiezalis says that his players have truly dedicated themselves to the program and will stop at nothing less than the NAC championship.

"New talent has intermixed well, added depth and improved the dynamic of the team. The 2007 Spartans are a tight group with a shared vision," Wiezalis said.

The Spartans put five seniors on the green this year and it could very well play into their favor as the experience is an incredible advantage when teams begin their playoff run.

PHOTO BY ENNIS DULING

Matt VanDerKar

The veteran defense of senior captain Al Brown, junior Jimmy VanDerKar, and sophomore Patrick Duffy will be in the backfield working on keeping the ball out of the net for the Spartans this season.

Between the pipes for the Spartans will be first year player Mike Mamunes. Mammunes steps in after last year's goalie, Avram Feldused, finished his four years of eligibility.

Senior midfielder, Matt VanDerKar, is returning for his final season. As a two-year MVP and team captain, VanDerKar holds an impressive record of NAC honors, goals, ground balls and face-offs won.

"Matt VanDerKar expects nothing less than perfection," Wiezalis said.

Although the Spartans season looks bright, there are a few concerns. The team has already lost one its captains, Brett Quillia, who sustained a season-ending injury while snowboarding.

Wiezalis says the team was counting on Quillia to be a big producer this year but other members of the team have already begun stepping up and filling his shoes.

The Spartans will host their first home game on March 27, when they square off against New England College.

"They are focused and ready to get the job done," Wiezalis said.

Woman's Lacrosse

Landon takes the helm

By Shannon Sciria
Spartan Staff

The Castleton State women's lacrosse team is entering this season coming off their first ever bid to the NEWLA tournament, but they are not prepared to settle with last years successes.

The Spartans have began practicing in the gym often early mornings at 6am.The team has been able to travel to RPI in Troy, NY and up to UVM to play on turf fields in order to prepare for the journey of a brutal college season.

The Spartans return 10 players from last years post season squad. 11 rookie faces will also suit up for green this year.

"We are happy with the number of players and their talents and we are really working at developing everyone into a strong unit," said first year head coach Tammy Landon.

Although the Spartans roster is packed with freshman, Landon hopes to be in the top three spots in the NEWLA. This would be a step-up from last year's four seed.

Landon feels that the weather is a huge disadvantage because they are not able to get out on the grass as their opening games begin to breathe down their neck.

"We are happy with the number of players and their talents and we are really working at devoloping everyone into a strong unit."

-Tammy Landon

"With many new players, our challenge is to get everyone playing together, but the team is working very hard and has stayed very committed in practice," Landon said.

Leading the way once again for the Spartans this season will be, Katelyn Greene. Green had a stellar season in 2006 leading the Spartans with 33 goals as a freshman and being named to an all conference second team.

Castleton's season was postponed on the 17th and 18th of March due to the weather. Castleton will have to wait until March 24th when they square off against Emerson. The Spartans won't see any home play until April 5th when they host Elms College.

The Spartans have already competed in two scrimmages this year and Landon says they have seen great improvement in both.

"It was really great for us to get on a field and compete," Landon said.

The Spartans youth combined with experience could play into the hands of opponents, or could make it hard for teams to pick up victories against a very hungry, out to prove team.

"We are confident that this year the team will have more depth in players and will have amble substitutions so the players on the field will remain strong," Landon said.

Columnist versus sports editor on March Madness

Editor's note: Both picks were made prior to the start of the tourney

Tony Trombetta
Spartan Sports Columnist

Midwest Region:

This is the home of the defending champs and clear cut pre-tourney favorites. The number 2 seed in this region are those pesky Badgers of Wisconsin.

The Badgers' boring brand of basketball (ha!) makes them susceptible to being run out of the gym on any given night. And that's what Georgia Tech is going to do to them in the 2nd round. Javaris Crittenton is the most under appreciated freshman in the country and when these two meet he's gonna go off and out play Wisconsin's 5th year star Alando Tucker.

Notre Dame squeaks past the Ramblin' Wreck in the Sweet 16. In the regional final, it's the Gators over the Irish.

West Region

This bracket has a really nice collection of intriguing 1st round match ups. Look for Holy Cross to give the Salukis of Southern Illinois a real scare, but fall short. In that game, watch Keith Simmons closely. He can play! Next, the hated Dukies will make a glorious first round exit at the hands of a really talented Virginia Commonwealth team, who went 16-2 in the tough Colonial and then won the CAA tourney.

My pick to win this region is Pittsburgh. The Panthers defeated 2 tournament teams in Louisville and Marquette in the Big East Tourney before falling in the final to Georgetown. Pitt beats Kansas in the Elite 8.

East Region

This region is the home to this year's edition of the 12-seed knocking off the 5-seed. I like Arkansas over USC. The Trojans were really exposed by Oregon in the Pac-10 finals, and I don't see a bounce back happening. The 2 seed in the East is Georgetown.

The Hoyas are a shade more exciting than NASCAR, and not far ahead of Wisconsin. I got them falling to Vanderbilt in the Sweet 16. In the regional final, however, the Commodores are knocked back to reality by Texas. Kevin Durant is the best player in the country, by a lot.

This team reminds me a lot of the Carmelo Anthony Orangemen who won it all. They are led by the stud Frosh and a dangerous, streaky point guard in D.J. Augustin. The Longhorns ride those two all the way to the Final Four.

South Region

This is the weakest region of the four. Ohio State is going to coast to the regional final by beating Central Connecticut St., BYU, and then Albany. That's right, Albany! The Great Danes walked into the America East final and beat Vermont at their home gym.

They played smothering D and Jamar Wilson showed that he is the real deal and capable of checking just about anyone. This region has another pretty suspect 2-seed. Memphis was undefeated in Conference USA…WOW! Who did they play??? If they survive North Texas in the first round it's all over for Calipari's Tigers in the second round against Nick Fazekas and Nevada. Nevada then falls to Texas A&M.

For my money, Acie Law IV is one of the five best in the country. Law IV leads the Aggies past Oden and the Buckeyes in the round of 8. This sets up an all-Big-12 matchup with the Longhorns.

Final Four

Texas over Texas A&M
Florida over Pittsburgh

Title Game

Florida over Texas

Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

Playing and watching sports at a young age, I always heard the phrase "defense wins championships."

Not sure if it will win you championships, but in Texas A&M's case, it will certainly earn the Aggies a trip to Atlanta. Billy Gillespie's club gave up only 59.2 points per game against the opposition this year and is led by Mr. Clutch, also known as Acie Law IV.

Whether it's hitting 3's from the corner or driving the lane and making plays, Law can carry this team past freshman sensation Greg Oden and Ohio State.

Are we getting another dose of Hoya Paranoia?

Georgetown struggled a bit against Boston College, but the dominant inside duo of 7-footer Roy Hibbert and junior Jeff Green continues to be too tough to contain.

Green, the Big East Player of the Year, is a big-man who can score in the paint or knock them down from behind the 3-point line.

The experience is there and coach John Thompson III's Princeton-style offense (using the shot clock, running backdoor plays, constant pick-and-rolls) creates match up problems for opposing teams.

The East region is very strong and UNC is playing quality basketball, but Georgetown would run them over in a potential Elite Eight meeting.

The popular pick would be to have Florida repeat as champions, but the most dangerous team in the tourney is Oregon.

The Ducks are riding the wave after winning the Pac-10 tournament and have the best guard-play in the country.

Coach Ernie Kent has done a great job this season and Aaron Brooks went from "the guy who punched Ryan Appleby in the face" to "elite clutch performer."

The team's X-factor is 5-foot-6 freshman Tajuan Porter; if you haven't seen this kid play, you are definitely missing out on something special.

Porter is a gunner from beyond the arc and can create shot opportunities with his ball-handling skills.

So my message to Billy Donovan and Florida is to take notice, or these Ducks might just quack their way into the Final Four.

But the team that will win it all is……UCLA.

The Bruins are well balanced on both ends of the floor and do not make many mistakes.

With the opportunity to watch them throughout the season (thank you DirecTV), I am convinced UCLA has what it takes to garner an unprecedented 12th national championship.

There's no shortage of scoring with this team, as they have three players averaging in double figures.

Arron Afflalo, the Pac-10's Player of the Year, leads UCLA with 16.7 points per game, but more importantly seems to find ways to hit the big shot from anywhere on the court.

Point guard Darren Collison has been a pleasant surprise and continues to control the pace of games despite recurring ankle injuries.

John Wooden must be proud.

Elite 8

Georgetown over UNC
Texas A&M over Ohio State
Oregon over Florida
UCLA over Southern Illinois

Final 4

UCLA over Oregon
Georgetown over Texas A&M

Championship

UCLA over Georgetown

The SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, April 11, 2007

Student election turnout dismal

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

The first task is to get enough students to join senate in order for them to be able to vote on issues.

Though Corey Gray and Lucas Roberts were elected as the president and executive vice president of the Student Association (SA) in the March 5-9 vote, only 11 of the 27 positions were filled by the election. This number may bump up to 21 after the applications of the write-in portion are reviewed.

Seven percent of students, 147 out of 2102, voted in what was the second lowest turnout in the past eight years.

"I'm disappointed certainly," SA advisor Victoria Angis said of the low participation.

Gray and Roberts' main goal for their term is for more students to be involved, according to Roberts.

Gray wants to see more students get on boards such as the college court and the campus center board. He also wants to see an election with more competion instead of most offices running unopposed.

"To take more active participation," Gray said about what he wants to see from students during his term.

One way for them to get involved is through the districting process which will pair students up with a senate member who will be required to keep the students within their district posted on what is happening in senate.

Roberts is hoping this will help students have their voice heard and for students to understand and be informed about what the SA is doing.

"My guess [on why more people aren't involved] is the word isn't put out enough," Roberts said. "I want to get the name out there and what we do and how we do it."

A bunch of drunks at CSC?

Survey Says: CSC students don't stack up well, have lower self-esteem and drink more than the average student nationally

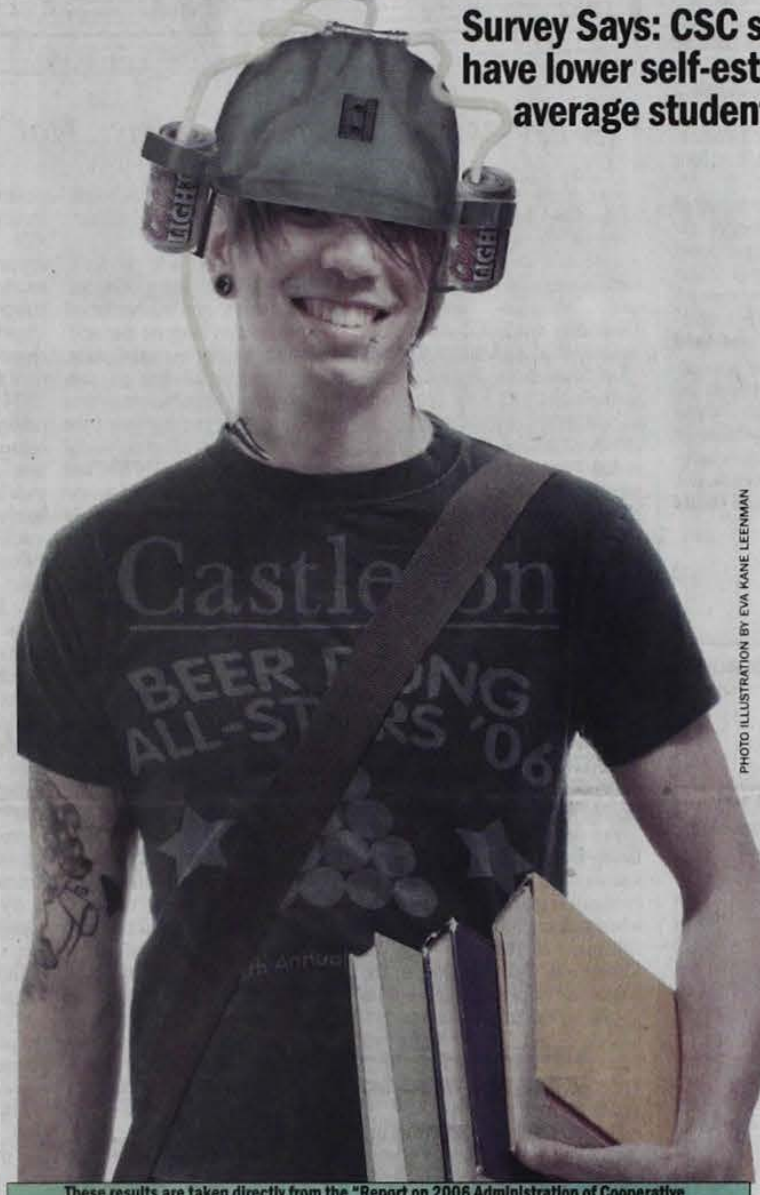


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

These results are taken directly from the "Report on 2006 Administration of Cooperative Institutional Research Program", and were based on a survey of CSC freshman last fall.

The first four categories below indicate the percentage of students who rated themselves "above average" or in the "highest 10 percent" compared to the average person of his/her age:

	CSC	U.S.
Academic ability	32.4	52.3
Drive to achieve	54.2	65.4
Religiousness	10.8	26.2
Self-confidence (intellectual)	36.8	54.6
OTHER DIFFERENCES:		
Drank beer	60.6	40.0
Voted in student election	13.0	20.2
Predict that they will make at least a "B" average	42.3	55.6
Play varsity/intercollegiate athletics	27.6	17.5
Partcipate in student government	2.8	7.4
BELIEFS:		
Abortion should be legal	68.7	53.5
Marijuana should be legalized	59.2	37.4
Same-sex couples should have right to legal marital status	74.2	59.0

By Dawson Raspuzzi
Spartan Editor

The results are in — and they aren't pretty.

Castleton State College students have less self-confidence and a lower ambition for success than average students across the nation. One statistic, however, that isn't lower among incoming CSC students: drinking.

The college recently released results of the 2006 Cooperative Institutional Research Program - a survey that all incoming freshmen took during fall registration.

The survey asks questions about educational and social skills and aspirations, along with questions about family, political views, and self-confidence.

According to Kelley Gilmour, who oversaw CIRP process, the survey is designed to "provide Castleton with a detailed profile of the freshmen class, including their expectations about their first year at Castleton."

The results break down the answers between males and females, and also shows them in comparison to students from other national four-year colleges with a similar enrollment as CSC, and to all national four-year colleges.

The results show a reason for concern when compared to answers on the national level.

They detail how CSC students have lower self-esteem, show a lower drive to achieve and participate in community involvement, and have fewer high school academic achievements than students nationally. This year's freshmen class also has a greater percentage of students who drank alcohol than national averages and they spent more hours each week partying while in high school. There is also a higher percentage of students at CSC who want to play varsity sports than nationally.

The breakdown between males and females is quite different as well. Where females were more academically successful in high school, expect to be happier at CSC and plan to be more involved in school activities, males have parents that have higher education levels, and consider their computer skills greater.

The CIRP results show that CSC was the first choice for 66 percent of 2006 incoming students (split evenly between males and females), but only 29 percent of males and 43 percent of females believe they will be satisfied here.

Academic Dean Joe Mark said that the results concern him, but he said he does not think that they are as big of a problem as they may appear to be on paper.

"Many of the students that come to Castleton haven't discovered their own potential. The way you think of yourself goes hand in hand with your performance," Mark said.

But self-confidence is a problem that Mark sees in many incoming students. According to the CIRP results, just 46 percent of males and 28 percent of females considered themselves "above average" intellectually, compared respectively to 63 and 48 percent of students in colleges of similar enrollment.

Only 56 percent of males and 36 percent of females considered themselves "above average" in self-confidence socially, compared respectively to 58 and 49 percent nationally.

Mark pointed out that another question on the survey asks if a mentor/role model encouraged them to go to college and just 10 percent of CSC students said that their influence was "very important," whereas nationally 22 percent of students noted this as a "very important" reason.

Mark believes that a lack of role models could be a reason that CSC students' drive to achieve is more than 10 percent lower than national results.

"A big challenge we face as an institution is to show students their potential that they

Please see **SURVEY** *PAGE 6*

Speaker parallels war on drugs with Iraq

By Bradford Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

The photo on the screen showed a small, barely clothed man, face hidden by a large straw farmer's hat, hunched over with his arms held out, elbows bent, showing off the bright-red splotchy rash that covered them.

As the next slide was shown (this one of a woman with the same rash) the speaker, Sanho Tree, stood beside the podium telling the audience that the rash was caused by a chemical herbicide that was dropped by U.S. helicopters in countries like Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia in an attempt to eradicate plots of coca leaves, the plant used to make cocaine.

"The war on drugs has been a failure."

-Sanho Tree, director of Drug Policy Project, Washington D.C.

Tree, a Fellow and director of the Drug Policy Project at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., then cycled through more pictures of destroyed farms and ailing farmers during his presentation at Herrick Auditorium.

The presentation, put on by the history department and titled "Addicted to Failure", outlined the many problems that Tree and the institute have with America's drug policies, policies that Tree said are far from suited to the problem. With close to $40 billion a year being spent on combating an epidemic that shows no signs of stopping, people are continuing to question just how well the country's current policies are working.

"The war on drugs has been a failure," said Tree, speaking to a full-capacity crowd, "Many of you, though you might not know it, are probably one phone call away from getting what you want. Two at the most."

Carrie Waara, a history professor who required her Roots: History Behind the Headlines class to attend the presentation, thought the talk was a good one for her students.

"I was really impressed with how much information Sanho had at his fingertips. He answered every question with a wealth of understanding, and showed how research can support compelling and significant work," she said.

Like many "solutions" used in the war on drugs, the spraying of coca leaves causes more problems than it solves.

The widespread spraying (the U.S.'s biggest plan to halt the production of cocaine) is a plan

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EDITORIALS

China seems to be our model

In China, they put people to death for certain drug offenses. In Amsterdam, you can smoke weed in public. In the U.S., a person can be put in prison for 25 years for something as simple as seeking out prescription pills for their own use.

Guess which country has the lowest percentage of drug use among their population.

Surprise. Holland. (Maybe you weren't that surprised.)

Not surprising, though, is that neither the death penalty nor mandatory-minimum sentences have much of an effect on drug use. In fact, in both China and the U.S., drug use has done everything but go down.

"Lock them up and get on with our business" is a much easier thing to do than digging deep into the real problems behind drug addiction (economic, social, emotional) but like other wars fought against undefeatable enemies (*ahem*, terror) much of the fighting suffers from too much black-and-white simplification, ignorance, and easy, lazy "solutions".

Sometimes, drug addiction isn't even the problem.

In Florida, a man named Richard Paey is now serving a 25 year sentence for filling prescriptions for 700 oxycodone pills and other pain medications in a span of 36 days. Paey, who was in a serious car wreck and went through botched back surgery afterward, is now confined to a wheelchair with unremitting back pain. With no evidence of any intent to do anything other than use the pills for his own pain, he was put in prison.

In an opinion written by dissenting Associate Judge James Seals in Paey's first, and unsuccessful, appeal, the ridiculousness of mandatory-minimums is laid out beautifully: "I suggest that it is unusual, illogical, and unjust that Mr. Paey could conceivably go to prison for a longer stretch for peacefully but unlawfully purchasing 100 oxycodone pills from a pharmacist than had he robbed the pharmacist at knife point, stolen 50 oxycodone pills which he intended to sell to children waiting outside, and then stabbed the pharmacist."

Regardless of your views on drugs, your views on drug sentencing should be the same. Non-violent drug offenders are spending more time in prison than offenders convicted of rape. Is it fair that mitigating circumstances can lessen a violent rape case but not a case brought against someone for purchasing prescription drugs for private use?

Mandatory minimum sentences are still being used, despite their ineffectiveness. People with no intent to sell or distribute their drugs, held for personal use, are being sent to prison for years, only to come out still addicted, still jobless, homeless and looking for a fix.

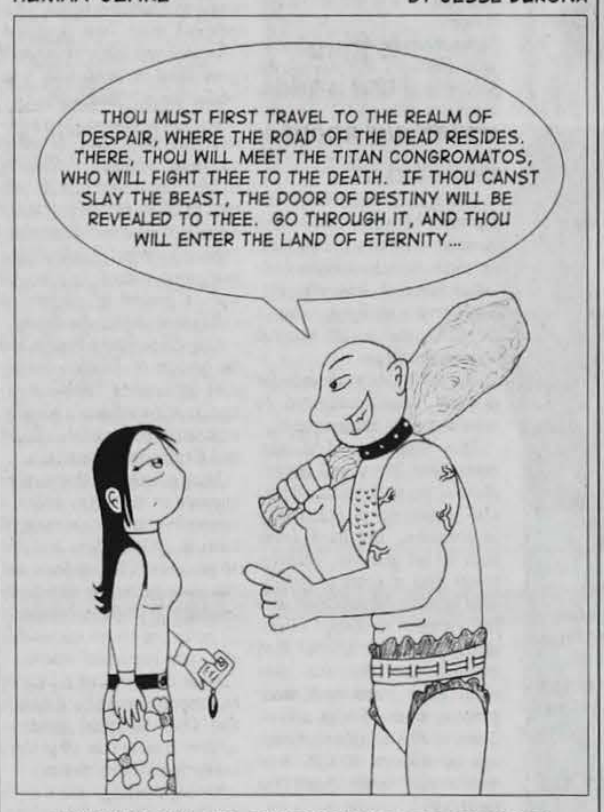
Yes, people who sell tons of drugs—"kingpins"—should be put behind bars but, according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, only 11 percent of all federal drug defendants are classified as high-level dealers.

The rest? Low level street dealers, mules, and people with drugs on their possession for personal use.

Sentences like this are given out all the time. Yes, people disobeying the law and selling/using illegal drugs should be punished (which drugs should be legalized and how personal drug use should be handled is a different argument altogether) and until more liberal laws on drug use are passed, the laws that are now on the books need to be dealt with. Putting people away for years, regardless of their reasons for doing a drug, is backwards and cruel, and sentences that support this type of treatment should be abolished.

- Bradford Waterhouse

HUMAN GENRE — BY JESSE DURONA



THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE IS HARD TO NAVIGATE...

The SPARTAN

CASTLETON STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Guest essay: Peak oil crisis: Not if, but when

The Maya were an advanced civilization that prospered from 1000 BC to 800 AD. The Maya people had developed a formal written language, extravagant art, and immense architecture. Eventually residential urban cities were created and the civilization grew. Soon thereafter, astronomy, mathematics and religion became a cultural exploration and advanced the society even further. It has been estimated that there were around 50 million Maya people at the peak of their existence.

So where is the Maya civilization today? At around 800-910 AD the Maya collapse occurred. An estimated 90% of the Maya culture died or disbursed during the collapse, which was presumably caused by the over consumption of the resources that had produced their society. Though the Maya collapse may appear as a gloomy historical occurrence, the fact of the matter is that history inevitably repeats itself.

The peak oil crisis that we are facing today is not a joke, it is not a scare tactic, and it will eventually manifest into chaos and anarchy when our civilization predictably collapses. In the short film Yu Koyo Peya, Tyler Kimble, of the Anthropik Network, paints a grim portrait of the future and our civilization's demise. The term "yu koyo peya" comes from the Ipili Tribe of Papa New Guinea and means the land is ending.

The film includes a clip from the movie The Matrix where it is stated that humanity is much like a disease or a cancer in that it consumes to the point where relocation is needed for survival. Since Americans are the largest consuming population on the planet, it is remarkable that a majority of the nation can still go about their daily lives as sheep controlled by fraudulent shepherds.

In the 1950's the late geophysicist Dr. Marion King Hubbert made scientific and mathematical discoveries that slapped our self-absorbed reality in the face. Hubbert calculated that oil production could be represented as a bell curve. Hubbert estimated the peak of U.S. oil production would transpire in the early 1970's and that world oil production would occur in the late 1990's or early 2000's. Hubbert was vindicated in his estimation of U.S. oil production because by 1975 it was clear that all major oil fields in the U.S. were declining.

Due to factors such as the Iranian war and the oil crisis that occurred in this country during the 1970's, world peak oil production was delayed about 10 years. It is now anticipated that world peak oil production will occur around 2010.

LifeAfterTheOilCrash.net is a website dedicated to delivering correct and sufficient information regarding the peak oil crisis. It contains credible resources and book lists to educate people about the expected catastrophe that peak oil will cause and how humans are contributing to the problem on a daily basis by remaining ignorant to the truth. Background information on Dr. Hubbert and the peak oil production bell curve can also be found on this website.

As a culture, we rely on the news to deliver the facts and important information regarding life on Earth. However, with corrupt broadcast stations such as the right wing Fox news source, it is plain to see why most of this country has no idea what is really going on in the world. On Nov. 14, 2006, an article titled "World oil supply still plentiful, study shows" appeared on MSNBC.com. The article, which comes from the information of Daniel Yergin (American author and economic researcher), states that there is no need to worry because there is still "3.74 trillion barrels of oil left -- enough to last 122 years at current consumption rates". The article then goes on to attack theorists such as Dr. Hubbert, claming that he simply miscalculated.

After researching Yergin further, I found an article he wrote in an issue of the Washington Post of July 2005. Yergin wrote "Between 2004 and 2010, capacity to produce oil could grow by 16 million barrels a day -- from 85 million barrels per day to 101 million barrels a day -- a 20 percent increase."

So why is Yergin suddenly changing his tune? My guess is that since we are rapidly approaching dooms day, in regards to peak oil, Yergin, in conjunction with other news sources, is trying to keep the American population calm and sedated. If you don't know the truth how could you possibly consider that something is false?

My advice to Americans, and all the people on Earth, is to educate yourself. If you want to believe the nonsense that the news is feeding us, then by all means remain ill bred. But if you value your life and the future of this planet then seek out the truth. Otherwise, when chaos ensues, you will have no one to blame but yourself.

By Jacqueline Poulette
Spartan Contributor

Survey: vague & unreliable

For the first time since the 80's, Castleton State College gave the Cooperative Institutional Research Program to the incoming freshman class. The survey is used to get an idea of the academic, political, and familial views and overall self-image of the college's new recruits.

While the study remains a good jumping-off point for administrators to tackle some student issues, it shouldn't be viewed as anything more than a vague and somewhat unreliable way to view the student body and college as a whole.

Surveys themselves are a good way to gather information about a large group of people in a relatively short amount of time with very little initial work put in by the people handing out the survey (designing a survey is a very different story). Surveys are given out, participants are asked to be as truthful as they can with their answers and then it's all tallied up and the results are given.

And with the trust that people will put down only the truth in a survey comes the major problem with a survey like the CIRP. Especially with an incoming class of 17 through 19-year-olds who are, more than likely, leaving home for an extended amount of time for the first time in their lives.

There's no guarantee that what people are putting down on paper is the truth. Many do, but many mark down the first thing that comes to mind, the first answer their pencil hits, or lie outright. As an incoming freshman, the last thing on any of their minds is a little survey enclosed in their "Welcome to Castleton!" student packet or given out in FYS.

The excitement of a new start in a new place meeting new people with a plethora of new opportunities is far too exciting to waste even a few minutes on a student survey.

Or maybe the opposite is true. Our students, the mature and forward thinking group that they are, may be vastly more honest in their answers than incoming classes at other schools. Sure, the national average says CSC freshman drink more than usual, have lower self-esteem and don't participate in student activities but maybe their students just didn't give a damn. Maybe they were too drunk to read the questions properly.

A nice, loose outline, sure, but to take the CIRP as any more than that and spend time on trying to get through to the new class of CSC students would be a waste of time. Like all things, in time, self-image, esteem, and work habits will change (most for the better) through the natural four-year progression of a college student. Surveys, for all they're worth, are the most inaccurate form of study because of intentional deception, poor memory, misunderstanding of the questions and lack of effort. A good starting point, sure, but to look at it as an accurate and inarguable representation of incoming students is to put too much faith into something that many surveyed probably didn't think twice about.

- Bradford Waterhouse

Walking safely around Castleton State

By Britnie Colarusso & Luke LaCroix
Spartan Contributors

Many of the students at Castleton State College are all too familiar with the convenience and safety that Saferide has been offering for years.

But what many students have yet to discover is a new service called Safewalk. This new program strolled its way onto campus for the first time this spring semester and was the brainchild of school nurse Deb Choma, who started working on the program in November.

The basic idea of the program is if a student wishes to have someone escort them anywhere on campus, they are to call the Public Safety Department for assistance.

But, "Public safety is not always available" said Choma, saying that's one of the main reasons she began working on this service. When public safety can't help the student, Safewalk is then notified and a volunteer Safewalk member will escort them where they need to go.

When asked if the recent alleged assault had anything to do with the launching of Safewalk, Choma stated, "No, the plans had been in the works prior to any incidences."

Unfortunately, Safewalk has not taken off at the pace everyone had hoped.

While many students interviewed said they had never even heard of Safewalk, at least some said they had.

"I haven't heard of anyone using it, I just read it in the Outhouse Gazette," stated off-campus resident Colleen Rupp. "But I think it's a good idea."

Other students feel that while Safewalk is a good concept, they would get more callers if they provided transportation instead of walking escorts.

"I think it's a good idea and it has good intentions, but it would be better if there was a van or something to come and get you instead of walking. I think a lot more students would use it," said student Carisa Chadburn. "I don't want to sit in my car and wait for Public Safety to come and walk me back when I could just call a friend."

Public Safety Officer Adam Massey said people call mostly from the gravel lot on South Street, but they ask if they can be picked up instead of having to walk and since Public Safety no longer picks people up, the callers usually tell them that they are fine.

"I don't really go anywhere alone at night," Amiee Goulette said when asked why she doesn't use Safewalk.

Although the majority of the students who request escorts are predominantly female, this service is not limited to any gender. Massey also said that since he began working for Public Safety in mid-January, he has only had one student call because she didn't feel safe walking alone.

Castleton Hall resident Garrit Marino said, "I wouldn't use it because I don't ever get scared of being raped when I walk back from Africa (gravel lot) ... But I do know a lot of females probably would use it. I have a few friends that are scared of walking back from Africa at night."

Mike Lefebvre, a Safewalk volunteer, got involved in the program through its brother, Saferide.

When asked if he enjoys doing it he responded "oh yeah I have fun," with a big smile.

"I think it is a good service, but not sure if it will take off," he said.

Safewalk, like Saferide, can count for student's community service obligations and Lefebvre said that's where most of the participants come from.

"By focusing on the diverse needs of the campus community, we'll strive to provide services that enhance the overall safety at Castleton State College," said Lefebvre.

Safewalk runs from 7-11 p.m. every Sunday through Wednesday.

A Melting pot of cultures

Students from around the world speak out about their life in Vermont

By Ariel Delaney
Spartan Staff

As the spring semester winds down many Castleton students start to think about summer plans. Most work around home, but what if your home was thousands of miles away as was your family?

Not many suspect that there are such students at Castleton, because the majority live within a reasonable distance. But if you look closely, it won't take long to find international students. Some are in your classes and one recently spoke about her country during women's history month.

But what is the Castleton experience like for international students? The student handbook states that "We welcome international students on our campus; however, an international student who meets the admission requirements of Castleton will be required to submit a one-year deposit of $17,000. The international student policy at Castleton does not apply to Canadian citizens.

Since most international students don't qualify for aid, they have to pay up front. That probably is no easy feat. Most students can barely manage rent and other expenses.

The intention of this article was to interview some international students and write a nice story about how great it is that Castleton has a diverse student population.

But after talking to a few students, at least one said they didn't want this to be a piece targeting them to prove Castleton's diversity. These students denounce the common stereotype that all international students are alien to all aspects of American culture.

Many schools big and small have support systems for international students. (I learned this at the media conference in NYC.) They are called multicultural centers open to all students, yet they serve as a mediator to address the needs of international and students from diverse backgrounds. I like to stress that the following excerpts came directly from our students in their own words.

PHOTO BY CAROLINA GONZALO

Catalina Alcaraz

Paradise found

My name is Catalina Alcaraz Guzmán from Medellin-Colombia. When I came to the U.S I did not know much about Vermont or even the United States. I left my country in search of becoming a filmmaker. The U.S. sells itself as a paradise where everything looks like Disneyland and magic happens for you to follow your dreams. I went to Arizona State University first, and doors were pretty much closed for Colombians in terms of opportunities and/or scholarships.

I ended up in Vermont through family sponsorships and some connections from relatives. I started at CCV because it was the cheapest option in the area. It was a good way to get started and improve my English to a college level. CCV offered me an opportunity to take classes at Castleton and that is how I got to know this school.

Castleton is a great liberal arts school where many groups have the freedom to express themselves. There are wonderful professors and you have the choice to either do your best and become an outstanding professional or simply take it easy and let the classes go by you. I have been well appreciated in my classes. My professors like to ask me my point of view from another culture and I had a chance to participate in many interesting venues where I have been able to express myself.

My classmates and friends show a lot of interest in getting to know other countries. They don't know much at first, but they are willing to listen with open minds. It is my understanding that there is only one scholarship for international students that is granted to one person for their entire time at Castleton. This scholarship should be awarded on a semester-by-semester bases and it should be given to the best GPA.

I am graduating in May and my only concern for future international students at Castleton is the lack of expertise from the administration when it comes to attend the legalities and special needs that involve being an international student.

They try to do their best with the little they know, but they can get you in trouble for not knowing the laws, and for not taking the time to find ways to guide you and support you. They need to understand that international students need a little closer attention and services.

A forged path

My name is Cristiana Bach and I grew up in Treviso, Italy, a small town of 80,000 popular for its delicious Tirame Su cake and for Prosecco - the Italian version for champagne -- and headquarters of an international fashion company called Benetton. I lived in many different places before I was 25. I lived in Paris, France, Stuttgart, Germany, Copenhagen, Denmark, Boston and Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles a couple of times.

Growing up I enjoyed family time with more than 20 cousins, grandparents, and my family. My father was president of Italian Rugby Association and we spent many weekends traveling to Rome or Florence to watch his favorite sport. I did not always know I wanted to pursue college, but in high school I worked as hard as I could to get good grades.

I moved to Vermont when the company I worked for 10 years opened a new franchise in the area, married, and had children. My marriage ended. Almost overnight a new path in my life was forged. Just the thought of being alone with two toddlers sent my head spinning as my world was crushing down. To remain truly competitive, I committed to return to college. Castleton State College has been the most rewarding college for me because it is the toughest.

It tests you both physically and mentally. You learn a lot about yourself as a person while going through the four years of courses. I only regret that there could have been a chance to have more interaction in a multicultural extra-curriculum setting. My advice would be to increase the opportunities for learning other languages and opportunities to get together in international education and social settings. My heritage includes a country which has intense passion for eating, playing, talking, cooking, driving and much more, always done with a zest like no other. I believe this spirit has created longtime friendships with many in this beautiful campus.

During my four years at Castleton, I had often a feeling of benessere (well-being). Even with all the study work and the difficulty of sometimes making myself understood in English, I felt peaceful and energetic because I was always welcomed.

First impressions

This exert came form Simona Delia Talos from Romania.

What's going on, students wear pajamas to school? I'm overdressed. What's that? The professors want me to write papers. What the hell! (Ce naiba- Romanian translation). I'm used to taking final tests. Papers? That's sucks. They're crazy, don't they know that European universities don't work like this. And the teachers want to talk to me? They're friendly? I thought they were supposed uncaring and harsh. How's anyone supposed to learn with nice teachers. Aren't we supposed to be scared?

As a former law student from Romania, I experienced many transitions coming to Castleton State College. Professors want you to achieve and they support you more than I was used to. Administrators follow up on requests for things like transcripts with a simile (would they have done that in Romania, hell no!) Castleton staff, from the top administrators to the secretaries in the registrar's office, always presented themselves as being there for you.

It has been an incredible experience and one I am thankful for.nzalo

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Joanna Doolan

Okay, reality check.

I'm almost 20 years-old.

Two zero. When did this happen? I think I finally realized that my first year of college is almost over. High school is done. I find myself tearing my hair out when I am in the midst of high school kids.

I went to this local concert the other night at Higher Ground because my friend's friend was playing in it. We showed up and low and behold, we regretted it instantly. The entire crowd consisted of 15- and 16-year-olds that annoyed me beyond belief. I was surrounded by adolescent drama.

I felt like such a loser, a college student amongst teeny-boppers. My friend and I found ourselves tearing apart the next generation.

They sort of disgust me. No, not sort of, entirely disgust me. Teens now are ridiculous. I feel old saying that, but it's true. I thought the kids I knew were bad enough, but they are getting worse. I want to smack every one of them back into a time where being depressed wasn't cool and talking back to your parents got you grounded, instead of getting everything you want.

Why is everyone so depressed? Especially these little teens who whine about "relationship problems". You're 15; you don't know what a relationship problem is.

Man, I barely even know.

Fourteen-year-old girls are sluts, teenage boys walk around thinking they are pimps. I didn't even have a boyfriend until I was 17 - a normal dating age. Not 12.

Maybe it's television. Or movies. Or music- but there's this whole self-involved attitude that is happening that makes me want to vomit.

All of this makes me go back to my original thought. Time goes by way too fast.

I do not feel as if I'm an almost sophomore in college. I am glad my teen years are over with. When I was a freshman in high school I told myself I wanted to be a "normal" teen and do what everyone else did.

I was wrong.

High school drama is not missed, but instead is transferred into college drama. College drama is the same thing, just amped up a few notches. No matter how hard you try to stay away, it follows you like an unwanted friend.

Not that I can't say that I'm not knee deep in this drama myself.

Creating and aiding to its disastrous rampage. We all "hate" drama, but really that's a load.

No matter how much you claim to hate it, somewhere inside you thrive off of these little dramatic experiences.

I'll admit it, it's kind of fun.

Not in that "I'm having a good time" way, but more of a "this gives me something to do instead of being bored and I get to gossip about it."

You know what I'm saying?

Everyone is involved in drama sometime.

Everyone contributes and aids and creates - that's just what happens. No matter how much you think you have escaped it, it comes back.

All our little whiny problems now will be like the ones we had in high school.

They will be resolved and forgotten.

Maybe if some of us spent as much time on our work as on drama we would all have amazing GPA's.

Ha, 20-years old. Thank God I'm not 16 again. Ha.

Students learn through Easter giving

Project focuses on disadvantaged families, low-income seniors, the disabled and victims oftr agedy

By Jen Manning
Spartan Contributor

Easter, like most holidays, has become commercial and all about candies and toys. But for Pati Papineau, it has become a special holiday to give back to the community and help out the less advantaged.

As the acting creator, president and director of The Easter Basket Project Inc., Papineau has made it her personal goal to help people in Rutland County. The Easter Basket Project Inc. not only focuses on disadvantaged families, but also helps the disabled, low-income seniors, and victims of tragedy during Easter time.

"In its 10 years of existence, The Easter Basket Project inc. has helped over 8,000 people" Papineau said.

Families have received not only non-perishable foods, but home supplies including paper products, detergent, bar soap, band-aids, and disposable razors.

"The Easter Basket Project Inc. serves a great purpose ,because it coincides with the Rutland County school vacations, and the children are not getting their subsidized meals," Papineau said.

Castleton State College became involved four years ago after Dave Wolk became president.

Wolk said he saw a great opportunity to let the students of CSC learn by helping the community that surrounds the college.

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI

Joanna Cardillo wraps the boxes that were used to raise supplies and food for the disabled, low-income seniors and families for Easter.

"It is an important service to the community because Thanksgiving and Christmas are the traditional holidays when food shelves are well stocked and baskets are delivered by many different organizations," Wolk said. "The Easter Basket Project provided a needed service at a time of the year when many families find the cupboards bare."

Joanna Cardillo, a junior at Castleton, said she finds the work uplifting.

"Knowing that we are helping people in need is what I enjoy about doing the Easter Basket Project," she said.

After the program was initiated on campus by Wolk, Director of Community Service and Internships Chrispin White took The Easter Basket Project under his wing.

"If you give a job to Chrispin, he always does it and he does it well," Wolk said.

Students on campus have been making boxes and donating more each year than the last, White said.

"The Castleton State College community has been wonderful in helping out with this cause," he said.

The city of Rutland proclaimed April 1-7 Project Easter Basket Week through the efforts of the local group influenced other counties and the state to follow suit.

"I am delighted that our students continue to make a big difference in the community before they go out to make an even bigger difference in the world," Wolk said.

FACULTY COLUMN

BURNHAM HOLMES

A look at CSC's The Twelfth Night

Theatre resembles life. So much to do, so busy until nothing remains except retreating from the stage one last time for a strike that returns an elaborate set into a bundle of boards, a pile of scrim, a bucket of bolts, and a cast party to review the highlights of near disaster and unrivaled triumph, to congratulate, laugh, shed tears even.

Did Shakespeare himself just amble through the door in his "doublet of changeable taffeta," offering up apologia for his lateness, air kissing like a bird of prey?

Leads, character actors, and techies gather round in this homage to the history of theatre. Hundreds of hours, nay the coin of thousands has been spent tucking lines into brain fissures, sewing costumes, locating shoes and props, an army of skills enlisted to present five times at the Castleton Fine Arts Center what had once been only a spark in a playwright's mind, a gleam in a director's eye.

So much goes into unleashing these actors to gambol across the stage, and to later remain only as images in the collective consciousness of an audience. So much goes into this intricate exercise, this Zen experience called theatre.

Why are people not lining up outside the box office pleading for tickets, and once safely inside the Casella Theatre in the hush of dimming lights, applauding the approach of the actors, hanging onto every measured syllable, bursting into joyous guffaws at the sight gags and double entendres, hugging the actors in the lobby afterwards in utter appreciation for their service to the Bard and the sharing of his ever-lasting words with us?

Are we so deadened to the passivity of cable and cinema that we cannot honor the contract that exists between actors and audience in live theatre?

For once the play is mounted, it is all about energy.

Our part of the bargain is to fill every seat, listen intently and react to what our actors say and do.

It is not enough to say we don't like or understand it. Particularly if a work has passed Samuel Johnson's measure of what constitutes a work of art, the 100-year yardstick, it falls upon us as educated people to appreciate the humor and meaning in this time-revered tradition, so that we can laugh with a Sir Andrew when he says, "I have no exquisite reason for it, but I have reason good enough."

Faculty, staff, students, and townspeople all have "reason good enough" to show up and relish in what has been so painstakingly prepared and passionately presented for our betterment.

Sample of porn Web site attacked by Reel Action in a presentation by Reel Action

Are we living in a 'pornified' world?

Reel Action club presents "Who Wants to be a Porn Star"

By Miriah Miner
Spartan Contributor

Reel Action members Marissa Williams and Matt Kimball presented the show "Who Wants to be a Porn Star?" to a full house on March 26.

Many who attended the presentation were not really sure what they were going to see.

Were they really holding auditions?

Were they going to show porn on campus? There were many ideas of what was going to be shown that night.

Students and community members soon learned that Reel Action was putting on a slide show about the porn industry and how the industry is sexist and racist. Reel Action members wanted to educate the Castleton community on how the porn industry really works.

"The slide show was about how pornography degrades women to an object, most notably specific body parts that make men begin to expect a certain standard for all women," Kimball said, when asked about the purposes of the event. "It teaches us that women are just pleasure centers and not real individuals.

"This significantly affects our personal relationships and we begin to expect certain things, just because porn does it."

Organizers said the show was a success. The obscene, but honest pictures of porn had a real impact on the audience. They were shocked at how far the porn industry has gone and how easily porn is obtained these days.

"The show wasn't what I was expecting at all. The images are truly disturbing and they were hard to get out of my head," said student Ray Boule. "I had no idea that the porn industry was that bad."

"The images are truly disturbing and they were hard to get out of my head."

Ray Boule
CSC student

The statistics that were presented seemed to have the biggest shock factor. Students learned that 35 percent of all Internet downloads are porn - roughly 1.5 billion each month. They also learned that there are 4.2 billion porn Web sites equalling 12 percent of all Web sites.

The presentation gave all who attended a lot to think about.

The world that we live in has become what one writer called "pornified."

Reel Action's next film will be "Who killed the electric car?" on April 25 at 5:30 p.m. in Herrick.

Spartan hits Big Apple

By Mike Trizinsky
Spartan Staff

New York City is one of the top cities for journalism in the world.

That made it an appropriate place for about 1,600 young college journalists, and their advisors, including Castleton professor David Blow and six members of the Spartan staff, to gather at the Roosevelt Hotel for the College Media Advisers' Spring National Convention.

The conference was held from March 15-17. On Thursday and Friday the conference went from 9-5:30, and on Saturday from 9-2.

The Spartan representatives wound up missing the entire first day of the conference because of a train delay, but that did not keep them from picking up some new facts about their craft.

"I learned to tie-dye text, what more can you ask for," said Janet Gillett, one of the page designers of The Spartan.

The conference was designed for young journalists working or looking to work in various aspects of the field from newspapers and magazines to literary journals and broadcast media.

PHOTO CONTRIBUED BY KRISTINA COLLINS

Spartan students pose at the Roosevelt Hotel in NYC.

"I thought most of the sessions I went to provided good information," said Dawson Raspuzzi, editor of The Spartan, who went on to say that his favorite session was about the ethics involved in newspaper writing presented by a journalism professor and a lawyer.

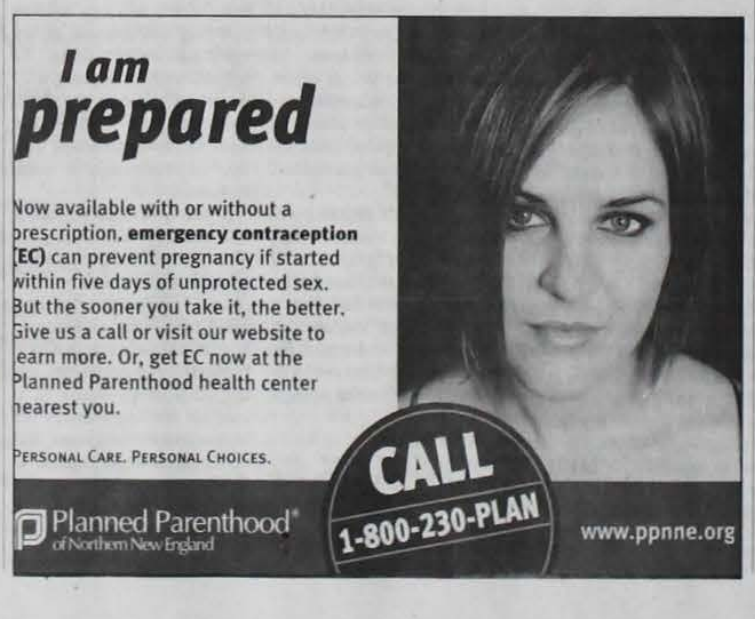
The Spartan was entered into the CMA Student Apple Awards under the category of 4-year non Daily Broadsheet.

The Spartan won favorable reviews during a critique by an on-site evaluator, an editor from Texas, who praised the paper's design and editorial page.

"I was really pleased with how the critique went, and I thought he was really impressed with our paper," said Blow, who added that the evaluator gave them a full hour critique, as opposed to the scheduled half-hour.

Despite the good review, The Spartan, fell short of the Apple award, but the staff is confident of their chances in the future.

"I thought for a small-school paper, ours was better than most of what we saw," Raspuzzi said. "I thought we had more content."



SOUNDING OFF

all your SOUNDINGS information IN ONE SPOT

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Was it a success? A flop? Please contact a Soundings instructor or Spartan advisor David Blow to share your thoughts.

EVENT COUNTDOWN

7 LEFT

Quotable Lines:

Twelfth Night
What function does music play in this production?

One purpose the music serves is this play is to fill in the gaps of action that is normally filled with the moving of scenery. The music also complements the action in the play. Another purpose the singers play is to serve as narrators. The narrators in Shakespearean plays often foreshadowed what was happening, which I feel the singers are doing. - Thomas Anderson

With which character do you most identify?

"While I don't identify with a character, I respond the most to Viola's character and the emotions she would be feeling. . . . I can understand the hurt she would feel when she thinks her brother has died and is taken with the men. I also think that almost all girls can relate to the feelings she has for [Orsino]. She has such strong feelings for him but yet can't tell him." --Miranda Bevins

Does Malvolio get what he deserves?

I don't think Malvolio deserved what happened to him. They took advantage of his vanity and his love for Olivia. Confusing him with the note and getting him locked up like a crazy man, that's a bit harsh for someone who was snobbish and just doing his job a bit too well. Malvolio's punishments were too harsh for his behavior. And there's nothing wrong with yellow stockings. - Cylvia Oprendek

Coming up Next:

Music, Music, Music: Jazz week
April 16: 8:00 p.m., FAC Casella Theatre, Combo Nuvo

Combo Nuvo (in their own words) . . . "Truly Original Music--Sounds like an eclectic blend of jazz, orchestral, and world music" (the Combo Nuvo homepage).

April 17: 12:30 p.m., FAC Casella Theatre, Johannes Wallmann, Jazz pianist

Take urban New York, rugged Canadian West Coast, Coltrane, and Ellington and mix together. The result is Wallmann's own brand of jazz, played with "infectious groove, melodic introspection [and] playful exuberance."

April 19: 8:00 p.m., FAC Casella Theatre, CSC's own Jazz Ensemble

CSC's own Jonathan Lorentz directs the ensemble as they perform a mix of jazz, salsa, blues, and avante-garde music. This is good stuff--treat yourself. (You don't even have to drive to the Iron Lantern.)

Bringing Shakespeare *to life* with laughter

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI

Heather Denardo and Julian Defelice perform a scene during the rehearsal of William Shakespeare's The Twelfth Night.

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

As I sat in the Casselja Theater waiting for the show to begin I was trying to prepare myself for yet another Shakespeare play. But the only thing I had to prepare for was two hours of well-performed comedy filling the theater with the roars of laughter.

In my past experiences I always dreaded Shakespeare, mainly because I never knew what was going on in the script. Having the script being performed in front of you by talented actors made it so much more enjoyable and entertaining.

You may know that Twelfth Night is about a love triangle with mistaken identity involving wacky characters in the land of Illyria. The play takes place in the time of Shakespeare, but the Stage Left crew gave it a 1920's spin.

The characters and set pieces are mostly taken from the era of the roaring twenties, making it a not so average Shakespeare play.

The mix of the original dialogue and 1920's style costume and set design is reminiscent to the modern adaptation of Romeo and Juliet. Instead of doing another modern adaptation, Stage Left went to the 20's.

What was most interesting about this adaptation was the use of song between the scenes. The three singers who sang quite well in the key of the 20's were sometimes characters in the scene or just background music for the saga from one scene to another. Song was also used in the play by the main characters as well.

An example is in the scene with Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Aguecheek and Feste where they are a bit drunk and attempt to play the piano and sing, but only end up in making a loud rowdy noise.

When it comes to the acting, all of the theater actors did a fantastic job. My personal favorite would have to go to Jesse Durona (Sir Toby Belch) and Ken Holmes (Sir Andrew Aguecheek).

These two were able to play out a friendship that was very believable and very entertaining. They brought the comedy to every scene they were in and every scene they were not in I looked forward for them to return.

The performance of Ken Holmes was exceptional with his outlandish accent and animated gestures. No matter what he said, even if it was just a couple of words, laughter always came out of the audience.

If you thought the theater department put on another Shakespeare play then you would be wrong. Yes, it was a play written by Shakespeare, but it definitely was not your average boring reading out of the script (or cliff notes) for English class.

The actors and singers gave the play a new life with an energized spirit.

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI

Ken Holmes and Jesse Durona kept the audience laughing.

Even if you don't understand a word of Shakespearian dialect and you don't know what's going on, that's OK. The actions, reactions and facial expression given by the actors was a joy to watch and hilarious when appropriate.

Having the singers in between the scenes was a very nice touch that added another element to a play, which already has so many.

REVIEWS

AUDIO

The Bled: Pass the Flask (Reissue)

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

It bled only to be resurrected, the reissue of Pass the Flask by hardcore band The Bled, hit record stores March 20.

The Bled, natives of Tucson, Ariz. first blasted onto the music scene in 2001. The band consists of vocalist James Munoz, drummer Mike Pedicone, bass player Darren Simoes, and guitarists' Jeremy Talley and Ross Ott.

The Bled first recorded Pass the Flask in Tucson in 2003 where they printed and sold 1000 copies of the album.

The band quickly grew in popularity eventually signing with Vagrant Records and released 'Found in the Flood' in 2005.

"When we released Found in the Flood, a lot of people though it was our first record," said Talley in an article on Vagrant.com.

The band's popularity can easily be linked to the band's sound. They don't have, in my opinion, a very unique sound.

They have what I have deemed the typical post-hardcore sound. Emo-style lyrics, think Dashboard Confessional. Yet, instead of singing them like some kind of lovesick puppy, Munuoz screams his lungs out. The instrumentals aren't that bad, amazing heavy pulsating guitar riffs, some crazy ambient sounds but Pedicone needs to learn to lay off the symbols.

The real beauty behind the reissue of Pass the Flask is the album also features 11 previously unreleased or hard-to-find bonus tracks. The album is like a two for one deal. The bonus tracks come from two of the bands previous EPs, His First Crush and The Ambulance Romance.

There are only a couple songs on this album worthy of head banging your way to acute back strain: You Know Who's Seatbelt and I Never Met Another Gemini.

You Know Who's Seatbelt has a fast guitar riff that makes you just want to get up and dance. Once you're all pumped up and dancing the song starts to get real heavy. You're forced to just start head banging uncontrollably and bending up and down from the waist.

I Never Met Another Gemini is nothing more than amazing. The song has moments when it's really heavy and others when it's really melodic. In this song, Munoz goes from soft gentle singing to throat scratchy screaming.

When I first listened to The Bled, I immediately thought they sounded a lot like Every Time I Die (ETID). Munouz use's similar screaming techniques as ETID front man Keith Buckley. In my opinion, any fan of From Autumn to Ashes, Atreyu or I Killed the Prom Queen would enjoy The Bled.

VIDEO

Frank Miller's 300

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

Are you looking for an action-packed, historically inaccurate war epic that won't let go until the end credits are finished? If you are, then 300 is for you. Based on Frank Millers comic book series, 300 is guaranteed to keep your eyes stuck on the screen like a Spartan spear stuck through a Persian soldier.

300 is a simple story about the 300 Spartan soldiers who have to protect the city of Sparta. When news reaches Sparta that the Persian army is going to invade and turn all of the citizens into slaves, King Leonidas and his men fight to the death to protect the city of Sparta.

The first thing that anyone could catch while watching this film is the historical inaccuracy. It is true that 300 Sparta soldier fought against the giant Persian army, but as disappointing as it may be, there were no giants or monstrous rhinos in the Persian army. 300 wasn't made to be historically accurate, it was made to play off of a true event and amp it up with mythical elements. This was done not only to attract a wider range of viewers, but also to take a simple story and make it into a war epic.

If you want accuracy then you could check out the 1962 film, The 300 Spartans. This older film was made to be more accurate on what actually happened instead of focusing on the bloody battles and monstrous beasts. The one thing that they do have in common is that they both took a small story in history and turned it into a war epic. Using monsters in the 1962 version may not have worked since the technology for special effects did not look as good as they do today. Moviegoers in 1962 probably wouldn't take stop motion animated monsters very seriously, losing the films integrity. Especially since many b-movies at the time were made with these animated monsters.

The actors are no one as famous as Tom Cruise or Reese Witherspoon, but the film was perfectly cast. The actors selected were not chosen just because they could act well, but because they look like the characters in Frank Millers comic book. With their chiseled abs, fine toned muscles and over all

Please see **300** *PAGE 6*

Jumps

Survey: 61% of CSC freshman have drank

: Survey
From page 1

don't think they have," said Mark.

Another area where CSC was below national average is school involvement. Twenty-two percent of CSC students said that the chance is very good that they will participate in student clubs/groups, and 11 percent will participate in volunteer or community service compared to 34 and 21 percent respectively in comparative colleges.

Mark points out that although those numbers are low, 28 percent of students at CSC expect to play varsity/intercollegiate athletics compared to 18 percent nationally. The fact that more students are participating in athletics could be a reason why they are less involved in other groups, Mark said.

Another troubling number is 61 percent of CSC freshmen (67 percent males and 54 percent females) drank beer before college, compared to 40 percent of national college freshmen.

Mark believes that this result is in part due to CSC's students coming primarily from the Northeastern United Staes, which has more alcohol use than other regions. This fact correlates with the numbers given on the Department of Health and Human Services Web site.

Other Vermont state colleges could not be compared because Johnson State College's academic dean Daniel Regan said that JSC does not use the CIRP or any other survey for incoming students, and Lyndon State College administration could not be reached in time for publication.

Freshmen Corey O'Brian, who remembers filling out the CIRP during registration, has his own ideas on why the results of alcohol use are higher at CSC.

"I think CSC is known as a party school so people come here thinking it's an easy school and wanting to party," O'Brian said.

Although O'Brian doesn't believe that CSC truly is any more of a party school than elsewhere, he does think that CSC has a reputation, saying "high school students who drink may come to Castleton instead of a school where drinking is not as common."

This past fall was the first time that CSC used the CIRP since the early 1980's according to Mark, although an alternative survey had been used since, which Mark believes was not as efficient.

Students who wish to obtain a copy of the entire CIRP results can do so through Mark.

Sanho Tree: Holland made marijuana boring

: Tree
From page 1

far too faulty to work and one that routinely hits rural farmers, not drug smugglers, the hardest. Young people, seeing what the U.S. planes are doing to their countrymen and the loss of hope they cause, either become drug traffickers/growers themselves, or go to the jungles to join the guerilla fighters battling against the Colombian government.

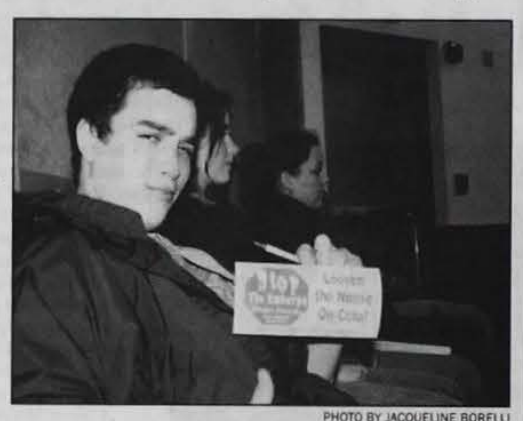


PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI

Freshman Jeremiah Haggerty attends the Sanho Tree lecture.

For many Colombians, their first real interaction with the U.S. is through the destruction of innocent, rural farmers and their farmland.

"We are driving the people (the next generation of Colombians) away from the central government." Tree said. He cites extreme poverty in the places where coca leaves and other drugs are grown, along with a "high, undiminished demand" for those drugs as reasons why the war is failing.

According to Tree, the dealers who usually get caught by police are the "dumb" ones, dealer's who either do the drugs they sell or aren't smart enough to stay out of trouble. When these dealer's are caught, it's effectively taking the bottom-rung dealers out of the loop, leaving only the best and most successful on the streets. Not only do the smart ones continue to sell drugs, they're able to raise their prices because of high risk involved. All it takes is a "So, you hear Johnny down the street was busted last night?" to put some extra money in the pockets of the ones still left.

"We're actually doing them a favor," said Tree. 'We've been breeding super-traffickers."

The number of offenders in prison for non-violent drug offenses is staggeringly large. Of the 2.7 million people in U.S. prisons presently (almost a third of the world's nine million prisoners), just over half a million of them are in prison for non-violent drug offenses. Its treatment like this that gets under Tree's skin.

"Drugs are not a criminal issue," said Tree "they're a social issue."

"The best way to deal with the problem is to give people a reason to look forward to tomorrow," Tree said.

One of the biggest reasons for drug users to take drugs is that they have nothing to do and nothing to look forward to. The government is basically telling addicts that "No, you need to be sober and depressed" without really giving them anything to help with their problem.

"It's interesting because I've always thought that," said Trevor Parks, a student who attended the presentation. "I think to really solve a problem like this you have to help people, not lock them up."

Marijuana, especially, is a drug that Tree feels should be legalized and regulated like alcohol or tobacco. As it stands now, marijuana is up there with much stronger, more dangerous drugs, when comparing penalties.

Using Holland as an example, Tree cites the low usage rates of marijuana in Amsterdam, a city where marijuana is legal, and Holland itself as reasons to believe that if it were legalized marijuana may actually become less of a problem.

"What they've done," said Tree with a knowing smile, "is make marijuana boring."

To Tree, people in Washington who are responsible for making the polices consider the Drug War a "Third Rail Issue", an issue that, like the electrified third rail on a city's tram system, isn't to be touched.

In order for a better drug policy to take affect, Tree says three things in Washington need to be changed: Ignorance of lawmakers (a better education in terms of societal problems with drugs and learning that the best way to stop them isn't by putting people in prison), cowardice of lawmakers (many are afraid if they touch the issue, politically, they'll be dead) and opportunism (a few members of congress feel it is "their" issue and keep hounding after the same tried-and-failed policies).

"Being tough isn't the same as being effective, and oftentimes you get the opposite result," said Tree.

The basic problem, Tree concluded, is that we, as a country, can't deal with the difficult issues at hand.

"We don't have the language to discuss complex problems," he said. When voting, the people have basically two choices: Republican or Democrat. In a world where there is an enormous spectrum of different types of government - all the way from Anarchism on one end to totalitarian fascism on the other - and our country only has two choices, both very similar to each other when it gets down to the nitty-gritty. Without a wider spectrum of choices, drugs will continue to be a problem.

"Drugs don't surrender, terrorists don't surrender, at what point does it end?" Tree asked, drawing parallels to the War on Drugs and the war in Iraq. "I think its an unwinnable war," he said.

Toward the end of the presentation, a student raised his hand and asked Tree the question that many people in the auditorium wanted to ask: Do you think that legalizing all drugs would help?

"Well," Tree started, "I think there would be problems that would be less harmful than the problems we have now." After a pause, Tree laughed and said, "We'd have a whole different set of problems."

300: Historical inaccuracy at its best

: 300
From page 5

beautiful bodies, it looks like the casting director gave the comic book characters human life.

During the course of the film I thought King Leonidas was going to punch through the screen, grab me out of my seat and make me join his Sparta army. His ferocity added to the films energy and by the time the movie was finished I felt really pumped up and wanted to go fight the Persian army.

The big part of 300 is the look of the movie. The use of color tone, camera movement and time slowing down all add up to the approach that the filmmakers took to keep the look of Frank Millers comic book.

Like with Sin City (another Frank Miller inspired movie) most of 300 was shot in front of a green screen.

This allows the filmmakers to add spectacular landscapes and giant armies that could not be done in real life. Going with the approach of keeping Frank Miller's style made it the war epic that it is.

With out it, 300 may have been just another war movie.

To wrap it up, 300 is a film for any viewer that wants to be entertained with a war epic that will explode in front of you like the Persian's magic powder.

The film is a bit graphic so it may not be for the faint of heart, but if you love giant battle scenes and monstrous beasts then check out 300.

WIUV week started

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

The tradition continues as the eighth semi-annual WIUV began Monday, April 9 and will continue until Friday, April 14.

Monday through Friday from 3-6 p.m. WIUV will be having a "Meet the DJ" booth in the Campus Center. DJ's will be broadcasting live and giving out a number of freebies including; WIUV pens, pins and stickers, said Promotion Director Tirzha Osmun Palmer.

Tuesday night was all fun and games as competitors shot it out to win a $50 pool cue.

"The pool tournament was really successful last year with 22 competitors," said Seth Tuper.

Tonight will be full of blood and carnage; from 8 p.m. until midnight WIUV will be hosting a Halo 2 tournament in the Campus Center informal lounge, said Tuper.

"It should be really cool, EB Games is donating 5 X-Box's and copies of Halo 2 and the event is co-sponsored by the U.S Army," said Tuper.

Thursday night, WIUV will be live at Flubberbusters Nightclub hosting its Black and White Semi-Formal. This VIP party is for Castleton students, but students are allowed to bring up to four guests, said General manager Tasha Turner.

"We will be decorating the club in black and white streamers and decorations, and free food donated from local restaurants, it will be a fun event," Turner said.

WIUV will host acoustic singer Rosie Huntress in Huden Dining Hall Friday during the dinner hours.

"She's really hot," said chief officer Michael Lefebvre.

Saturday from 11 a.m. - 1:30 a.m. WIUV will be broadcasting live from Total Backstage Access in the FAC, broadcasting the show and interviewing bands between sets, said production manager Adam Howland.

Film students offered hands-on experience

By Miriah Miner
Spartan Contributor

One of Castleton State College's newest professors has given her students a great chance to get out into the real world of film making.

It's something that interim professor Jody Bergedick said she felt was missing in the video field.

"There are a lot of talented students here, and the one thing that they really lack is the opportunity to get out and work with clients," said Bergedick, who replaced longtime professor Robert Gershon for the year while he is on sabbatical.

Bergedick is the "CEO" of Castleton State Productions, a fictitious company that is student run.

"Students are the employees," Bergedick said.

The class has 12 students in it and each is paired off and assigned to work with local non-profit organizations including the Vermont Adaptive Ski Association, Rutland County Women's Shelter, Poultney Historical Society and Slate Valley Museum.

From there, the students are on their own and are responsible for meeting with the clients and producing a finished product that will be used for promotional and educational needs.

"It's tremendously beneficial to clients and students," said Mariko Hancock, head of the college's Casella Theater and one of the clients that Castleton State Productions is working with for the Arts Reach program.

"We treat them like actual professionals that we would usually have to pay," Hancock said.

Eric Kapitan, one of the student "employees" of Castleton State Productions, said he is excited to be a part of the class.

"It gives you a real life experience. It gets your name out," he said

Opportunities like this don't come often, especially for students interested in video productions. It's a hard field to get early experience in, Bergedick said.

"They have all this great instruction, but it's all in class with other students and at the end of the day that's not what real life is going to be," Bergedick said.

This new class gives students a chance to understand how to work with clients as if they were really in the field of video production, she said.

"They are going to have a huge leg up over everybody else," Bergedick said.

ATTENTION STUDENTS!

?

What is the most pressing campus issue you'd want to discuss with President Dave Wolk?

Respond to thespartan@castleton.edu

Results will be used for a free luncheon discussion with President Wolk on April 19

Bradford Waterhouse

Ode to a Bunny Rabbit

He's finally leaving. After months of near-constant annoyance, Coco-Puff-lookin' turds covering the floors, chewed up electrical wiring and even more chewed up pant legs, our rabbit, Don Johnson, is leaving. We spent our last night together and it was magic.

Sadly, he didn't die. He was given away. To who, I'm not sure but I hope them better luck than we had. On his last day living with us, I found myself reflecting on the terrible times we had with him. It's always the smaller things that seem to annoy people the most.

I say small, but our bunny was huge. Massive, by bunny standards. He weighs over ten pounds, has back feet that measure from the tip of my pointer finger to bottom of my palm and ears that reach down to the floor even when he stands up to his full height. When one of our friends came to visit he saw D.J. in the bathroom and thought it was a puppy.

Not only is he huge, he chose to show off his hugeness by spending most of his time behind the upstairs toilet. It didn't matter what was going on, who was doing what sort of nasty thing in there, the bunny called it his home. And he loved it. If you took him and dragged him into the hall so you could shower alone, he'd scratch, paw and thump madly at the door until you let him back in.

His diet, despite the things we bought him (leafy greens, carrots by the bagful, pellets) consisted mostly of paper products we threw in the trash and his own poop pellets. First they stayed in the litter box. Then they were under the couch. On the bathroom floor. In the corners of rooms. We eventually figured out he was saving them for a snack.

He used his litter box during the day but when we woke up, the floor was always covered with droppings. Our sleeping, we thought, annoyed the crap out of him.

There was the time he squeezed his way through a hole in the closet and into the walls of the house, prompting my housemate to wake me up at quarter past seven in the morning to coax the rodent out of his hole with a flashlight and a well-placed alfalfa cube.

Then there's this little thing he does with his mouth, sort of like an unknowing smirk, that comes along with a twitch of his ears. He only does it after he's snuck in and covered my bed with his duties of the day. It almost looks like he thinks he's leaving me something I'll enjoy. I've never thanked him properly.

He's cute, when you first look at him, and he does this figure-eight thing between your legs when you're wearing sweatpants that's beyond entertaining. Watching him try to cross the tiled kitchen floor was always a good time, too. But like most things that piss where you usually sleep, he and his cute tricks wore thin.

No more missed classes for trips to the vet because the bunny ate half a magazine. No more knocked over trashcans because we have a bunny that is probably half goat. No more timothy grass floating in the air to make us itchy. No more tooth-torn papers, ripped pajama pants or hair-covered bathroom walls.

No more bunny.

I'd like to think I won't miss him but I probably will. When something you kind-of like leaves it's always easy to forget the things that made you happy it left in the first place. If it means anything, I hope he's going to a good home. At least one with a nice little spot laid out for him next to the john. A rabbit couldn't ask for more.

ON THE STREET

Jackie Borelli

Q: What would your theme song be?

MICHELLE PAGE

"I think I'll go for a walk outside now, the summer sun's calling my name, I hear it now. I just cant stay inside all day, I've gotta get out and get some of those rays, by the Brady kids."

JON WHITE

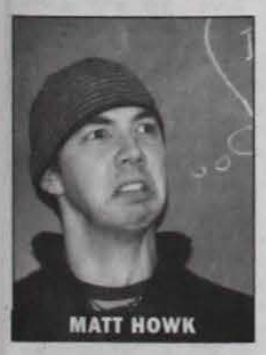
"Officer by Slightly Stupid."

BENJAMIN PAULSEN

"The fight song by Manson."

ADAM DESAUTELS

"Canned heat, from Napoleon Dynamite."



MATT HOWK

"I'm afraid of Americans, by David Bowie. Because man they scare me."

Nice to meet you: *Dennis Proulx*

Dennis is a Castleton alumnus from the class of 1987. He has worked at Castleton State College on two separate occasions. At this moment he is the director of residence life and the president of the Alumni Board.

Jazmin Averbuck, Spartan Staff

Birthday
"October 31, 1965 Halloween baby."
Hometown
"Exeter, New Hampshire"
Favorite color
"Castleton green"
Favorite season
"Fall, crisp air. You can wear shorts and a sweater."
Favorite movie
"Diner. I strongly recommend it."

Favorite food
"Lasagna with a side salad and honey mustard dressing."

How is CSC different now than it was when you came here as a student?
"The facility quantity and quality has gone up."

Which residence dorm do you think has the best floor plan design?
"Babcock, it blends both corridor and community space."

What made you choose to work at your Alma Mater?
"Came back because of the president and because I was living in the Rutland area."

What was your dream job as a child?
"Lawyer, I thought they were really smart, but my definition of smart has changed."

What is the best part about your job?
"Working with students that are in trouble."

Any words of wisdom for the students of CSC?
"The person in the end with the most experience wins."

Alumni Profile

"I soon realized that in the end it was about leaving a legacy."

Lluvia Mulvaney Stanak
Class of 2002

Over the last few years, I have been really excited to see all the fabulous campus improvements occur. Kudos to everyone involved. As an alumnus, I vividly recall helping to start or joining in on a number of student initiatives such as Safe Ride, SAAB movie nights, and blue safety lights. As a first-year student SA senator, I even dreamed of a campus gathering space in the old Moriarty House. What a difference just a handful of years and the support of the college administration can make in moving dreams into reality!

While I was at Castleton, I was heavily invested in the campus as a student leader. I held a number of positions ranging from resident assistant (now known as a CA), SOS, SAAB officer, and general manager of WIUV (props on turning 30 by the way!). Through all these positions, I learned first-hand that to make something improve or change on campus, you had to make it happen. Despite discovering that some projects would take more time than others, I soon realized that in the end it was about leaving a legacy. I knew that my efforts would help make the campus a better place to learn and live for future students.

I am excited to return to campus to be part of the growing legacy of the TBA concert in mid April. I will be spinning a huge range of elector-pop, indie rock, and even pop and hip hop in a DJ set from 5 -6 p.m. on the main stage.

Since graduating in 2002, I have established myself as one of the only queer female DJs in the Burlington scene. For the past four years, I have hosted a weekly, Sunday night new music program on 99.9 the Buzz, as "DJ Llu." The show features indie rock, electro pop, and the growing fusion between hip-hop and rock. The Buzz has a wide listening range, stretching from Castleton to Montreal. You can also tune in online at www.999thebuzz.com. For a few years, I also had a monthly residency at 135 Pearl, (the now closed LGBTQ bar in Burlington). Since last summer, I have been part of a monthly event at Higher Ground called "First Fridays."

Despite the excitement and flare of being a local DJ, I have spent the vast majority of the past five years working at Outright Vermont. This organization's mission is to build safe, supportive, and healthy environments for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (or simply queer) youth in Vermont. We provide programs that range from basic support services for young people who are questioning their sexuality to working with schools around the state to address bullying based on actual or perceived sexual orientation.

I have slowly worked my way up from program director to co-executive director, to full executive director of the agency. Working for such an important mission has kept me energized and motivated through a number of really intense events ranging form funding shortfalls to neo-conservative attacks on the mission of the organization. Through it all I have found that my multi-faceted Castleton education both in the classroom as a communication major and across the campus as a student leader, gave me a firm foundation from which to succeed in all my positions.

One of the best pieces of advice I ever received was from Professor Bob Gershon. When I was struggling to find a direction after graduation he said "what do you want to do when you get up every morning?" This advice helped direct me toward taking the job at Outright Vermont.

I have found that while challenging at times, working in the non-profit sector is truly inspiring. I strongly encourage Castleton students to pursue non-profit work at some point in your career. Everyone should have a chance to work for social change, which ultimately helps make the world a better place.

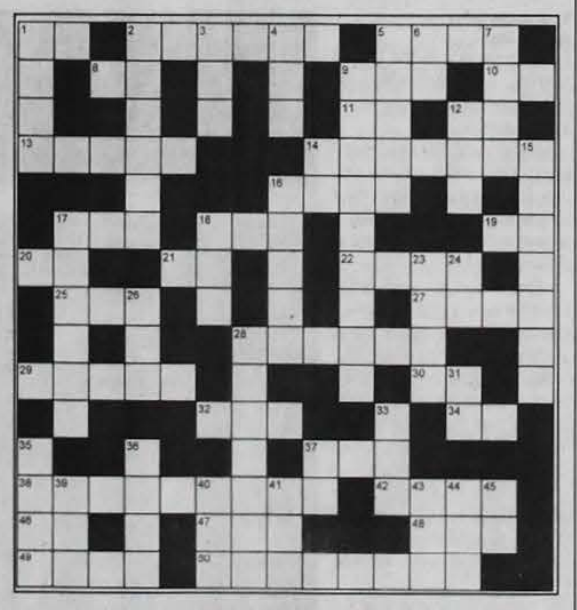
Easier than it looks

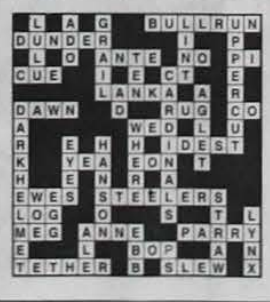
Across

1 the pine tree state (abbr.)
2 first jeep company, WW2
5 what not to do in battleship
8 scent of a skunk
9 what a gambler places
10 lead, in chemistry
11 21st state (abbr.)
12 the ocean state (abbr.)
13 last Confederate general to surrender to the Union
14 a single-edged sword
16 a fox's den
17 biblical mountain of Aaron's death
18 shopping strip in NYC: fifth ___
19 stats: the sq. rt. of the variance
20 ___ it may concern,
21 instant message speak: I understand
22 a clown's name
25 a tombstone saying
27 "___ rode the rebel Johnny Yuma"
28 "a ___ throw away"
29 Dink's partner
30 for example (abbr.)
32 Emril's catchphrase
34 the ___ Corral: 28 oct. 1881
37 the earth's closest star
38 Julius Caesar's last words
42 "___ Soup" film 1933
46 Cummings' paired initials
47 Spanish triumphant cry
48 fish eggs
49 an automatic transmission lock
50 what never forgets

Down

1 " You're the cat's ___ "
2 Babs' pantless boy toy
3 ahora
4 has another name
5 hand to hand combat
6 E-bay's mascot
7 a top's tance
9 Australian oxbow lake
12 ewe's mate
14 boxing goal (abbr.)
15 horse starter
16 "have a ___ "
17 who never forgets
18 usually the high card
23 home
24 painful scream
26 a paronomastic tool
28 oceanic vulture
31 not stop
33 a popular conjunction
35 toot!
36 ___ Moose Party: circa 1912
37 direction of travel (abbr.)
39 herbal beverage
40 ___ v. Wade
41 a golfball's pedestal
43 a jar of ashes
44 temporary cot
45 kinetic energy (abbr.)





Created by Seth Tuper

Non-Trad Speaks

Susan Hernandez

This week I started to look at the courses that would be offered in the fall of 2007. I always get stressed when it comes time to select courses. I worry that the courses I need will be filled, or they won't fit into my schedule. All the non-traditional students know what I mean.

The classes we choose must be scheduled around our jobs, our families, and our community commitments. Add to all of that, I live 70 miles away. What I would not do for just two more hours in a day.

This semester I was lucky to put a master schedule together that worked.

Looking forward to the schedule for next fall, I am trying to find Chemistry 1, Physics 1, Physiology of Exercise, and a World Views class. Unfortunately, the Physiology for Exercise class is the problem. It is only offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I could take it in the summer but that would require me to take all of my vacation time and then some.

Scheduling classes is an especially troubling exercise for the non-trad student population. Most of us have limited time and limited funds. While many of us would like to take a class just for fun we cannot be that frivolous. We need to finish our degrees in the shortest amount of time possible.

Another limitation with the time issue is that most of us cannot take more than four classes per semester. We count on taking summer classes to make up for the credit shortfall. Castleton's summer classes are intense four-week blocks that are totally out of the question for me. I must look outside of Castleton to accomplish my summer credit goals.

This creates another problem. I have been told if the numbers of the courses do not coincide with Castleton's course catalog numbers they will not be accepted. I have had to search the web for courses offered through other Vermont institutions. Community College of Vermont has several choices online and on site. None are upper level courses, but they will fill the worldviews requirement.

Microbiology is offered, but I don't know if Castleton will accept the hybrid (online and lab time) class. If they do I could take a hybrid from CCV in White River Junction. A sociology class that is being offered in Rutland might fit into my program. The Springfield and Brattleboro CCV sites are also within my one-hour acceptable driving radius. Johnson State has posted some online classes that may be accepted also.

It is all so complicated. I will meet with my advisor and hopefully get all the answers to all of my questions, but it won't be easy.asy.

My experience at Castleton up to this point has been that there does not seem to be anyone who can give me all of the answers. I always seem to be standing in the wrong line.

Maybe I am the only one with these issues. I wonder, do you have any of these problems? Do you have any ideas on how to deal with them? If so, e-mail me at susan.hernandez@castleton.edu and share your thoughts with me. Maybe together we can find the answers.

Lacrosse

Men split road trip; Women even at 2-2

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

The Spartans went into Spring Break with a full slate of games on the menu, but Mother Nature took its toll and provided a major setback.

Castleton entered a two-game road trip after defeating a tough Maine Maritime squad 10-3.

Emerson played host to the Spartans in North Atlantic Conference action and Castleton boasted a trio of first-half goals and would cruise to a 12-3 win.

Senior Stephen Gerding and sophomore Robbie Scanlon scored three goals each, while Matt Varney and Matt VanDerKar each chipped in a pair.

Michael Mamunes earned the victory in net, stopping five of seven shots before leaving late in the fourth period.

The Spartans suffered a less pleasant outcome against Western Connecticut State losing 14-5.

Castleton got three goals from VanDerKar, two from Adam Rosati and Michael Martinez had two assists.

This past week, originally scheduled games against Thomas and Norwich were postponed due to the snow and poor field conditions.

Castleton has already rescheduled its matchup with Thomas for April 22.

Coach Dave Wiezalis, with a record of 19-11 in his first two seasons at the helm, said he is impressed with Castleton's early-season play and has high expectations for his squad.

"I think we've played well so far," Wiezalis said. "Our extra man opportunities and ground-ball possessions are keeping us in games.

The Spartan men are currently 3-3 and sport a conference record of 2-0.

Women's Lacrosse

On the women's side, the Lady Spartans were also forced to cancel a pair of games over vacation.

Currently with a record of 2-2 with a NEWLA record of 2-1, the team was snowed out of a road contest against Dominican and the home opener against Thomas.

Heading into yesterday's battle with Westfield State, Katelyn Greene leads the Spartans with six goals this season.

Nicole Bouchard is right behind her with five.

Sophomore goalkeeper Meredith Pope is currently 1-1 with a total of 16 saves.

Waterlogged field stops play

By Shannon Scirla
Spartan Staff

Before any Castleton spring sports teams start worrying too much about win's and losses, they might want to start worrying about when they are going to be able to lace up their spikes for a home game.

Over 20 games have been rescheduled already this season for Spartan teams including baseball, softball, men's and women's lacrosse and rugby.

The only teams that were able to weave around Mother Nature - to an extent - were the men's and women's tennis squads because they are able to play their games indoors in Rutland.

"It's a good feeling to know that our season won't be jeopardized because of the weather," said Sophomore Tennis player Jessee Maranda.

But even they are losing out on practice time, because they can only practice in Rutland two days a week.

But other teams are longing for a home game.

The Spartan softball team currently has four losses and four games that have been postponed.

The home opener was scheduled for April 10, but as of press time on Monday, the game against rival Green Mountain College wasn't looking likely. And with more rain and snow forecast for later this week, it looks as though more postponements are in store.

"The weather had us thinking our games were going to look promising finally after a long wait. Now with this past bit of snow, unexpectedly, it set us back another week in the gym," said freshman catcher Jennifer Longley.

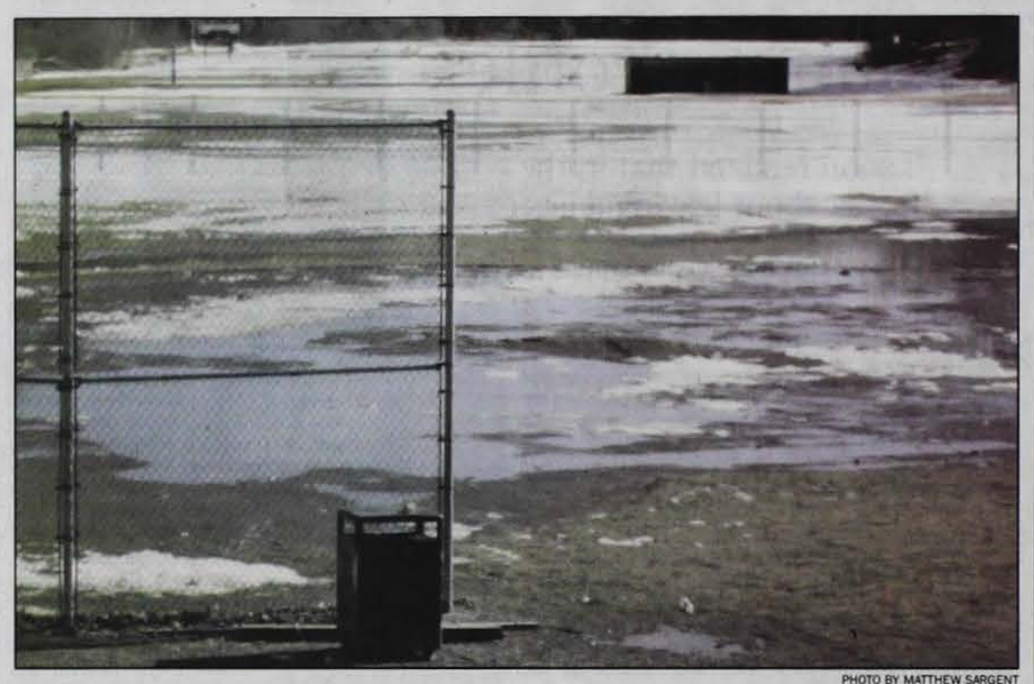


PHOTO BY MATTHEW SARGENT

The softball field kept players in the gym both before and after spring break.

Longley, a home town product from Proctor High School, stressed how much this hurts the club because they have to go back into the gym for practice where none of the women want to be after already spending over a month inside.

Although most of the snow has melted off the fields, they still remain drenched. Golf carts have started to drag the infield dirt around on the softball field, but the main concern is drying the field, rather then moving the water around.

"It's going to be a huge change going from sneakers in the gym, to cleats in the dirt and it takes longer to get used to then you think," said Rob Turner, a sophomore pitcher for the baseball team.

Turner, also a local product from Rutland High School, stressed how upset he was that the outfielders haven't taken any pop-flies and the team has yet to even throw a baseball on their home grass.

"It's a lot different throwing off the wood pitcher's mound in the gym then it will be throwing off the mound on the field. It will take time to adjust, we just usually have more time to do so," said Turner.

The baseball team moved one of its home games to Dodd Stadium in Connecticut, which is also the San Francisco Giants AA field.

The Spartans hosted Elm's college which is about 45 minutes from the field. The trip for the Spartans was nearly three hours, which according to Turner, made it feel like yet another road game.

"We lost our home field advantage for the beginning of the season," said Turner who hopes his squad can hit the green sooner than expected.

There are several games scheduled for the middle of this week at home, but as of Monday, they were all looking unlikely.

"It's awful because we are going to pack all our games into two weeks," said Lacrosse player Brett Quilla.

MEN'S TENNIS

The Spartan men defeat Johnson 8-1

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

With only one North Atlantic Conference game under their belts, the men's tennis team is on top of the NAC standings.

The Spartans defeated Johnson State 8-1 to take the top seed early in the season.

Castleton swept the singles match-ups against the Badgers after Robbie Gray and Jessee Maranda both battled back after dropping their opening sets.

The only loss came from the No. 1 doubles match with Johnson's Neil Perron and Dylan Louko defeating Gray and Jamie Cook 8-2.

Overall, Coach Bruce Moreton's squad is 4-2 on the season, dropping matches against Norwich and Colby-Sawyer.

The 8-1 loss to Colby-Sawyer stopped a three-match winning streak.

Maranda took the No. 2 singles match to avoid the sweep.

The Spartans travel to Thomas Saturday for a NAC match-up.

BASEBALL

Baseball team having roller coaster season

By Shannon Scirla
Spartan Staff

If consistency is the key to winning a championship, the men's baseball team may be in a load of trouble.

The Spartans have put themselves on a roller coaster ride thus far, dropping three of their first four games, then turning it around and winning three out of the next five.

"The weather has made it difficult for us to get in a groove," said assistant coach Bob Godlewski.

Godlewski, who served for a time as associate scout for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, said that this squad has great potential, but also feels the team.

"This is a very good, but young team, however we have to pray for good weather so our pitchers can get work in," said Godlewski.

Currently the Spartans are 8-7 overall and 2-0 in conference. There is no question the Spartans have faced an up-hill battle by not being able to play any home games or get any outsides practices, due to the weather.

"I strongly feel we can compete for a conference championship," Godlewski said.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW SARGEN

Home plate of the baseball field was under water before break.

Head Coach Ted Shipley has not won a North Atlantic Conference championship in either basketball or baseball since being hired in 2001.

Shipley's squad was footsteps away in 2004, before getting thumped by Thomas College in the NAC championship, giving up 29 runs in two games.

"Talent-wise we are the top three in the conference," said sophomore pitcher Rob Turner.

Turner, who has been more than frustrated with the weather and not being able to practice on dirt, feels that the true test will come against St. Joe's College in Maine.

The Spartans will head to Maine on April 29 to face what he believes is one of the powerhouses in the NAC.

"After St. Joe's we will really see where we are at as a team," said Turner.

The Spartans have won their last three games, and most likely would have made it four if they had played a much weaker Vermont Technical College on April 4.

The game was not played because of poor field conditions.

The Spartan's next home game is not scheduled until April 17 when they host Norwich University.

All the snow has melted off the field but with more in the forecast for Thursday, nothing is a guaranteed.

"A championship would get us an automatic bid to the regionals … That's my goal," said Gowlewski.

Sports Column

Tony Trombetta

Need to vent

Sorry if any of my views are perceived as offensive. If so, e-mail me and we can talk about it.

Baseball is the American pastime right? And what is more American than taking something from another culture and completely bastardizing it? Case and point, Dice-K? What exactly does that mean? Honestly, I'm really hung up on this s***.

I will never forget the day I turned on SportsCenter and there stood Red Sox GM Theo Epstein announcing to the world that they were going to change the name of the $103 million man.

Here's a 30-something guy named Theo deciding that he is the new premier of Japan. Give me a break. The man's name is Daisuke. Pronounce that collection of consonants and vowels any way you want, but don't give the poor guy a new name! What's next Theo? Assign symbols?

Adam "Pacman" Jones! Will somebody PLEASE get a load of this guy. You've got to be kidding me. I know the Bengals have had some off the field trouble, but Pacman single handedly put his Titans in the running for "Most ignorant irresponsible bunch of over paid hoodlums" in the NFL. League Commish Roger Goodell would be equally irresponsible if he gave this guy anything less than a full season suspension. And you know what's truly sad about this? Pacman is an unbelievable football player. Great player. Bad human being.

Hello NASCAR! I know you get a lot of poop. And I kind of feel bad for you. But honestly, you're bringing it upon yourselves. Just last week you introduced the world to The Car of Tomorrow. What is that? I realize that you changed the car to make the "athletes" safer. But when I turn the TV on and see a grown man say "Car of Tomorrow" with a straight face, a series of really unpleasant things happen inside of me. Also, I realize these guys 'prolly didn't git much schoolin.' However, now that y'all are driving this new automobile, it is no longer the "Car of Tomorrow." Kinda git wut I'm gittin' at?

Now for Joakim Noah. How Pat Summit ever lost the recruiting battle to Billy Donovan over this lanky feline I will never understand. Can you imagine the Lady Vols with Janik's kid and Candace Parker? Wow! If I never have to see Joakim on television ever again I will be a very happy man. I feel the same way about Noah that the entire nation feels about Sanjaya the screaming princess of American Idol.

Vote this what-ya-ma-call-it OFF ALREADY.

There, I'm done, and feeling much better. Anthony.Trombetta@castleton.edu

The SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, April 25, 2007

Castleton snags

REEL BIG FISH

First Castlefest will feature big name band

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

One student's quest to make something big happen at Castleton has led to the booking of Reel Big Fish, the band that will headline the first ever Castlefest.

Andy McQuerrey, the vice president of the Student Activities Board (SAAB), has been working passionately toward putting on a large concert at Castleton, and his efforts will soon pay off.

"I've been working on Castlefest for two years now, mostly in the last 11 months," McQuerrey said.

On Sunday, April 29, Castlefest is going to rock out the Glennbrook Gymnasium with artists Shute Furmunde, local band Duane Carleton and the Backwoods, Revision and headliner Reel Big Fish.

"It started out as Blues Travelers, then it was Cake followed by Guster and now Reel Big Fish, which is awesome ska, just makes you want to get up and move," said McQuerrey.

To the dismay of many Castleton students, tickets for Castlefest are going to cost $20. Tickets can be purchased beginning April 24 at the Fine Arts Center Box Office.

"I wish people didn't have to pay anything, but the SAAB budget can't afford to put on a show like this," said McQuerrey.

The Student Activities Board's annual budget is just about $98,000. The SAAB spends the majority of the budget on Fall Festival, Winter Weekend, Spring Weekend and numerous events throughout the year, said McQuerrey.

"The estimated budget for Castlefest is between $38,000 and $40,000. The SA Activities Board has approximately $30,000 they can afford to spend," said Victoria Angis, assistant dean of campus life.

McQuerry hopes that people can look past the cover charge for the show. As he described it, he wishes to pass something onto the Castleton community and he believes this show will do that.

"We needed something that was going to bring people together. Yes, we have shows every week, but people don't go to them," he said. "We need to have something permanent that is going to bring people together to have fun."

McQuerrey plans to make Castlefest an annual event. He has one year left and he plans to make next year's show even bigger, whether that means spending less on bands throughout the year that get little turn out or having people purchase tickets.

Chances of SAAB spending less money on small acts in the future to afford the whole amount for Castlefest, probably will not become a reality.

"I feel that it is better to have lots of smaller shows featuring a wide variety of musical styles and genres spread throughout the year," said Angis.

A Rutland resident, Lucas Ahbleza, was excited to learn of the show and mentioned that it has changed his opinion of Castleton.

"It gives Castleton a new view. Now when people look at Castleton, they don't just learn about the academics, but that the college is able to bring a sick show every year," said Ahbleza. "Hell, it's bringing me to Castleton and I'm not going to be the only one."

Junior Adrian Hill, one of the 600+ students that signed a petition for Castlefest, feared that the sets would be too short.

"With that many bands, the sets are going to be like 45 minutes, I'd rather watch a two hour set," said Hill.

Hill's dream will come true. Each of the opening bands are set to play for about an hour and Reel Big Fish will play a two-hour set, said McQuerrey.

Adam Howland, the production manager at WIUV and the producer of Castlefest's PSA, anxiously awaits Castlefest.

"It's sick. We haven't had a big show like this on campus since my freshmen year when JAM brought Against Me, Planes Mistaken for Stars and some other sick punk and emo acts," said Howland.

McQuerrey, excited about the upcoming Castlefest, may have said it best.

"Look out, this year we're poppin' the musical cherry, next year we're going all out," said McQuerrey.

Virgina Tech shooting hits home at CSC

New emergency plans released for Castleton campus.

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

"You want the truth?" Castleton State College student Jason Swift asked.

"Cause I don't think you could put the truth in the paper," Swift said, referring to his initial reaction to the shootings at the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Va.

Castleton and other colleges and universities around the United States were greeted with a violent dose of reality on April 16, as the Virginia Tech shooting left a nation in mourning and searching for answers.

"The events at Virginia Tech have filled us with sadness and grief for our colleagues and their students at that institution," Castleton President David Wolk said in a statement issued on April 19.

The Virginia Tech campus was rocked to its knees that Monday, in what has been called one of the deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history. Seung-Hui Cho, a 23-year-old Virginia Tech senior majoring in English, took two handguns -- a Glock 19 and Walther P22 - and turned them against his fellow students just as the morning classes were ready to commence.

Cho began the shooting spree shortly after 7 a.m. in the West Ambler Johnston Hall dormitory, killing resident advisor Ryan Christopher Clark and leaving Emily Hilscher mortally wounded. Cho later traveled across campus and killed another 27 students and five faculty members in Norris Hall sometime between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. He later turned the guns on himself and committed suicide.

The impact of the shooting has been felt worldwide, leaving seemingly safe colleges

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Spartan forum focuses on security

By Dawson Raspuzzi
Spartan Editor

Would you feel safer if public safety officers did random bag and car searches? What about if students had to present school ID's every time they entered a dormitory building or on-campus parking lot?

What about if every step you took down the hallway was monitored on surveillance cameras?

These measures aren't being taken at Castleton yet, but some students feel that they should be after the tragedy at Virginia Tech. School security is now on the minds of students across campus after the massacre, but it was already on the minds of President Dave Wolk and Dean of Administration Bill Allen before the shootings took place.

At the same time the shootings were taking place, Allen, who chairs the Emergency Planning group, was meeting with Wolk to review draft nine of the Castleton Emergency Management Plan. The plan, which has been written up by a group of eight faculty members, all from different departments of campus, is expected to be finished and distributed to students later in April.

It will be published in two forms: an in-depth version and also as a one- or two-page emergency protocol that can be kept at desks, on bulletin boards, and in resident halls. These plans will have information about "emergency contact numbers, protocols, proce-

Please see **SECURITY** *PAGE 6*

Building plans foil students' studying

Phase three of the Castleton Master Plan begins with the Jeffords Center.

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Students gather in the Anatomy and Physiology study room, frustrated not only with the testing material, but with the noise coming from outside.

The construction for the new auditorium and research labs in the Jeffords Center for Mathematics and Science has begun and can be heard all around campus.

"It's obnoxious," psychology major Kim Decker said, "I can hear it in all my classes."

She pointed out the window and asked, "Do you hear it?" to explain how the noise interferes with her classes, and studying.

From the dull thudding repetitious sounds in the library to the ground-shaking ruckus in Jeffords Center, students and professors have to put up with the distraction in order for the buildings to be done by the time fall semester starts.

"I think if it persists in being disruptive, it will reduce what students learn on classes," psychology adjunct Frank Goodkin said. "On the other hand, I don't know what alternative they have. They can't do it in the middle of the night."

Goodkin added that he hoped it will "ultimately provide some benefits to students."

The new auditorium will hold around 123 students, about 80 less than the current one, and will be part of the SMART classroom additions, similar to Herrick Auditorium.

"It's very important (to be done for the fall semester)," science professor Mark Fox said. "We need the auditorium for the fall classes. If it's not done, we have no place on campus to fit them."

PHOTO BY MATTHEW SARGENT
Students pass by the construction site.

While Fox agrees that the construction is distracting in classes as well as in his office, he couldn't be more excited.

"It will improve our lives so much that I don't mind," Fox said over the drone of the jackhammer.

After the auditorium is complete, the current auditorium will be converted into research labs for the science department.

"We've never had dedicated labs," Fox said, something he's been hoping for in the 20 years he's worked at Castleton.

Up to now, Castleton students have had regular lecture classes in the same room as where they work on their labs.

Fox said that the multimillion-dollar labs will allow faculty and students to participate in research that could end up in a published journal. Faculty members have already received $150,000 from grants to fund their research.

"I'm willing to put up with noise and fumes to get labs that cost millions of dollars. I can't wait for more (construction)," Fox said smiling.

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Who do you like? Sox or Yanks?

COMING NEXT ISSUE

It's hard to believe, but not long ago, there was no Coffee Cottage.

Historians from across the country have taken the unprecedented step of formally denouncing the war.

Imus defined us as a society

I'm warning you.

There is a high probability that some of you may take great offense to what I'm about to say. It may make you angry, confused, and uncomfortable.

Like Carrot Top's stand-up at the Apollo, this won't be a very fruitful experience for many of you Spartans.

You. . . have. . . been. . . warned.

Are you ready? Because I honestly don't care if you are. Some things need to be said, regardless of how uncomfortable it may make so-and-so or what's-her-name.

Imus is innocent.

Now, before you all throw out those dime-a-dozen words like "racist" and "bigot," how's about you actually hear me out before stringing me up like a nerd on a flagpole.

I've never liked Imus' radio show. I always found him a bit on the drab side, with a voice that resembled a cross between a constipated Barry White and a drunken Darth Vader.

To me, listening to Imus was the auditory equivalent of an elderly orgy-never-ending and painful in all the wrong places.

That being said, what happened to him was a complete injustice. It's a classic example of the good ol' racial double standard, a pathetic attempt to cover up our country's own hypocrisy with phony political correctness.

Face it-we're all goddamn hypocrites. Every single one of us.

We've all laughed at racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise derogatory jokes and comments at some point in our lives. We all harbor thoughts against those we don't understand.

It's not a weakness-it's human nature.

And don't try to pull that "well, I'd never do that" crap with me. You can wipe that lie right off your stinking hypocrite face.

We're living in the age of cutting edge entertainment. We want to have our buttons pushed just as much as we want to push back.

Imus was fired for implying a certain stereotype that, in all fairness, he shouldn't have said. Radio personalities have been canned for less, he should have known better, and yes he should have got in some hot water for it.

But come on!

Do we really need to turn it into this HUGE race issue, when in reality most people probably wouldn't have noticed a damn thing had it not been plastered all of the news like a pheasant in a fender.

On one hand you have these Rutgers students who are apparently "scarred" from such an event, while on the other you have Imus' wife calling the players "courageous."

Freakin' courageous!

No, I won't have that. Storming the beaches of Normandy or Bruce Willis blowing up an asteroid to save the planet is courageous. This was an inconvenience at best.

Imus made a living giving the public what they wanted-shock and awfully lame humor. We are responsible for creating his image. We think he's funny.

And seeing as his sense of humor is a direct reflection of our own, why do we scapegoat him as the only person in entertainment to make an offbeat suggestion about race?

So it's OK for us to laugh at Dave Chappell's "Nigger Family" skit or Carlos Mencia's "Stereotype Olympics," which are directly making racial accusations, but it's not OK for another popular media personality to crack a much less striking joke?

Oh yeah, I used the dreaded "N" word, didn't I? Oh my Christ I'm such a racist. See, even when racial slurs are used in context some of you still can't deal with it.

Entertainers have beaten so many dollars out of the racial stereotype angle that it's a wonder people still find it funny. And yet it is still one of the most interesting parts of a typical stand-up act or sitcom.

It's nothing new.

We need to cut out all of this hypersensitivity bull that always seems to loom its head about in the media. There are bigger and better things to worry about than a few sticks and stones.

You are not children. You will not be treated as such. Stop your freakin' whining and get over your own hypocritical self.

You can say whatever the hell you want about me as long as I can say whatever the hell I want about you. I don't care if you're black, white, green, or Barney purple.

But I'm not going to pretend like I love everyone equally. If anything, I hate everyone with equal amounts of passion.

And that my friends - is equality for everyone.

- Terry Badman

At least we have something for the front page

"The deadliest shooting in U.S. history."

Those words have weight.

It's almost unbelievable. There has never been anyone, ever, who took more innocent lives by walking into a place and shooting it up - in the entire history of our country.

The saddest thing about all this is that the best that the people who are telling us about Virginia Tech and the killings can give to the victims are the exact same headlines, leads and "reasons why" as they did for every school shooting since before Columbine.

Little else about the tragedy has had so much effect. The incident itself is brutal to think about and looking over photos of the thirty two people who were killed on CNN.com is devastatingly sad, enough to make my eyes well up.

But like every other tragedy of this magnitude, the media swoops right in to "get the story". Good writing, vivid enough to tell us the stories of these people, their lives and how they ended, is ignored in favor of deadlines.

Headlines used for school shootings eleven years ago are recycled because it's easier.

No thoughts of slowing down to think about how moral and respectful it is to sum up the loss of thirty-two human beings in a header that still needs to fit in the allotted space.

Not thought about using the melodramatic "Venom From the Grave" as a headline for a news story instead of the title for a direct-to-video horror flick.

And along with all that, feelings of disgust and a sinking weight of despair that, yes, newspaper and television news are, like books and film, competing for our entertainment dollars. Not to get the news out, which is the standard response, and not to truly respect and remember the victims, but to get the most viewers and readers to pay attention to your product.

And while predictably fingers will point towards our violent society and videogames and film as the culprit, it's the media that's to blame. Knowing that the killer sent a video of himself and his "manifesto" to NBC is telling enough.

The clips of that video were shown daily after the shooting, on CNN almost every fifteen minutes. The killer got exactly the kind of attention and fame he wanted from the very news programs that claim to be delving into the reasons why mass-killings like this happen. Then, they air their one-hour why-did-he-do-it specials in prime-time with games like Grand Theft Auto front and center.

Millions of people bought that game and games like it and millions of people didn't go out and shoot anyone. Games and films can act as a trigger for someone who is already screwed up but it takes something much bigger than that for them to think of something as encompassing and violent as a school-wide shooting spree.

I know how newsrooms work and I'm guaranteeing that at least a few editors around the country got excited, to themselves if not to others, about having a story like this to fill up the next couple of editions and a few slots in the daily program schedule. Any industry that thrives (and I'm not going out on a limb here) on the tragedies and suffering of human beings is exploitive and backward.

The people who died in that school deserve more than what they're getting. These weren't characters in a movie; they were real people with real families and real problems and real homes, jobs, likes, loves and personalities. Treating them as entertainment robs them of the one thing they deserve most: a genuine and respectful goodbye.

- Bradford Waterhouse

Letter to Editor: I want safety

Due to the recent Virginia Tech Massacre, much discussion has come up about our own campus security. I am one of many students here who are now questioning how safe they feel. The chances of such a tragedy at Castleton are slim we know, but it can in fact happen anywhere. Even to our own small college with a big heart. I'm sure you have already questioned these circumstances yourselves. I'm also sure that there are financial, political, administrative, and other factors that I cannot grasp as you do. But I still feel the need to speak up for my fellow classmates.

Even in my High School we had emergency phones in every room. My friend's colleges have PA systems in every building including dorms, to spread important announcements. They also have gender-coded bathroom keys to unlock the bathrooms. None of these things do we have. Public safety and the blue emergency posts can only prevent so much. Many students here don't have room phones or even check their email, so information of emergency circumstances may often go unknown.

The gravel lot is one of our main problems. With the bad lighting in the beginning of the year, the walking trail in between it and the school, and even the isolation of the lot are reasonable concerns.

We all know that assaults have taken place there and although a spotlight was put up in response, that honestly just lights us up as targets.

I think many people are embarrassed to ask for safe walk and a classmate of mine had a story to tell. When she called for safe walk she was asked if it was because she just wanted to get out of the cold with a ride. Rumors or not, there is a lack of security on campus.

I myself, live in Babcock and I'm disturbed that because of the tutoring room, Babcock's main entry is almost never locked. Someone can easily hitch a ride up once inside. I can't tell you how many times I've found trash cans propping open the stairwell doors on the main floor.

I can only kick so many. I'm sure we can all agree about the ridiculous amount of fire alarms and extinguishers set off in the building this year. Even during vacation!

Not only for our own safety, but to be an example for other colleges, we should increase our methods of security. Yes, we students play a role in propping those doors open and other issues, but we can only be accountable for so much. With the tuition we pay (out of state myself) I think it's not unreasonable to ask you to make us feel safer. We depend on those in control of the school to keep us safe while educating us. We are away from our families and need that support. Vermont is quite the hunting state and therefore guns are obviously nearby. Having the Essex shooting so close doesn't help either.

My classmates and I know the Castleton staff has our best interests at heart and do what they can with what they have. But times like these are when we really need you to prove it to us. I hope that this e-mail can give you a taste of what those who don't want to speak out are thinking. Maybe you can work off some of the ideas that I've mentioned are in place at other schools. I love this college and have all the faith that you will do the best you can. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Meg Morton

The SPARTAN
CASTLETON STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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WORD TO THE WISE: NOT ALL STUDENT TUTORS KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING

Theater department is not Stage Left

My name is Jennifer, and I am both a current employee of Castleton and a recent alum of the Theater program. I often read the Spartan and think that you and the students are doing a great job.

I especially like to see what students outside of the Theater Department think about the shows that are put up, as an outside perspective is always interesting. I have noticed something, though, in the past few articles that has irked me a little. I know it's a picky thing, but the articles that spoke about "Twelfth Night" both said that the production was put up by Stage Left, the theater club.

This is actually inaccurate, as the formal Department and Harry McEnerny put all of these shows up, and Stage Left puts up very small informal cabarets, if anything at all.

This is in no way a criticism, so I do not want it to be taken as such. The articles are very good and it is great to see students talking openly about enjoying something like Shakespeare, which is often thought of as boring and avoided as a result, and expanding their horizons.

I just wanted to let all of you know for future reference that none of the formal main stage shows are put up by Stage Left or Alpha Psi Omega, which is the Theater honor society.

They are all formal productions put up by faculty and students together. These groups may be present, usually at intermission selling snacks, but they are not responsible for the formal shows.

Thanks for listening!!!

Jennifer Marrone
Admissions Counselor

A Melting pot of cultures

Part two of a look into the diversity of the Castleton community

By Ariel Delaney
Spartan Staff

As I listened to the news this week and continued to pursue this story, I realized its need. Some students who read the last one told me that they had no idea Castleton has international students. One sat at lunch with a student from the first story. This student told me that, even though she was from here, she shared some of the same experiences and appreciated the story for informing her. I was worried as to how students would react to such an article and to know that I can maybe bridge a small gap doing what I love. Writing is a pleasure.

Talking with these students has been an eye-opening experience (Majur almost had me on the brink of tears as he explained his story and his ambitions). I'm ultimately satisfied with everything; yet, I agree with many of the students in the regard that Castleton needs some sort of group to support all its students needs, especially those from other countries and backgrounds.

Intercultural understanding is something that can enrich us. I have been enriched. Cristiana thanked me and I ultimately gained a little bit of understanding from these students who are often not heard from so much.

Taking life as it comes

My name is Majur Makor. I come from a small town of Bor, the Upper Nile Province, located in southern Sudan. I left my country as a result of a war: civil war, and war to neighboring countries, Ethiopia and Kenya.

I was encouraged by my father to leave and get an education wherever it might be, and to get out of the war that many people in my area suffered from dearly.

I went to Kenya where I was able to finish my secondary school certificate. After school, I began to have access to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), responsible for coordinating the process of people hoping to resettle to countries such as Australia, the Netherlands and the United States.

Only people that came from war affected areas were promised acceptance. That's how my journey began.

I was admitted to the United States in 2003 and eventually ended up in Vermont through the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP). I was placed with a host family from Underhill, Vermont who helped me adjust. My new life in the states was totally foreign and I had to experience a lot of changes such as seasonal changes, snow, American culture, and American English. I speak Dinka, my native language, as well as Arabic, Swahili, and English.

However, my education resumed through a tutor to improve my English, math, and slang as well. I had to pass a GED, SAT, TOEFL, and any other requirement for college. I ended up at Castleton because of a friend's recommendation of it being a small school with a good student to teacher ratio.

My first impression of Castleton was terrible. I didn't know many people except a friend from Burlington. It was hard to get along because Castleton, at that time, seemed to have what I would call 'colonies'; a group of people he or she belongs to. I began to ask myself one day "Is this a place I really want to be?"

PHOTO BY JANET GILLETT
A community advisor's monthly poster asks students to 'celebrate diversity.'

My past experiences growing up in war torn Sudan and other countries have taught me patience and to take life as it comes. I began to make friends my second semester and found that Castleton isn't such a bad place after all. Among all, English proves to remain a challenge in both speech and writing. My professors have been very helpful, especially in English, and I'm thankful for that. Some are very appreciative knowing that there is a student from a different culture, and that makes me feel acknowledged.

I would like to admit that there is no support of any kind for international students here at Castleton. It's hard to be around people who don't acknowledge you. Most people favor "diversity" here at Castleton. Diversity isn't bad, and diversity does not only mean having international students either, but it means helping those here adjust, hearing their concerns, and recognizing them.

That would be a good direction and I don't see the administration trying to make this work. I would like to see a club or organization solely to focus on the needs and concerns of international students. This would help other students understand our backgrounds and most importantly make us feel welcome and truly part of the Castleton community.

An acquired taste

My name is Waffa Evaji. My mother is Lebanese, my father is Iranian, and I was born in the United Arab Emirates. When my family first moved to the US in 1990 from the Middle East, we didn't know anything - the language, the food, the culture, etc. However, over time we all learned. My siblings and I learned these things from school and my parents learned from watching TV.

As the years passed, my parents began to learn more and more about the culture in the United States. Did my father really accept the culture? Yes and no. He accepted them in the way that he understands. That it is the way it is, but he doesn't accept them because he doesn't want his family to become "Americanized." However, naturally, this would happen. My brothers and sister have become Americanized.

Growing up in school, people were always curious. They would constantly ask me to say something in Arabic and would ask me about how things are in the Middle East. Of course I was picked on for my name for obvious reasons, in middle school. As a growing adolescent, naturally, I wasn't happy about it. But as I got older, I learned to accept and have fun with my name. I love it and what it means!

The food is another transition. Because our meals are completely different from American foods, it is harder to get used to. Our food is not hamburgers and fries; it is a pot of goodness filled with a lot of spices - nothing is bland! Because of the mix of spices, it is hard for people to enjoy such a meal right off the bat - I guess it is an acquired taste.

Pub on campus could offset sleepy town image

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

Picture this as the scene surrounding a college campus: Two restaurants within walking distance of the campus, and both are not open after 9 p.m.; a small village store instead of a New England-based supermarket; and a library that neighbors the town's grade school that's rarely opened to the public.

Is that the type of environment a prospective student would want to call home for four years?

While having the reputation of being among the oldest American institutions for higher learning, Castleton State College is located in a town with only a handful of stores and restaurants.

But the school could become more of a college town if their newest proposal is accepted with open arms.

Sociology Professor Philip Lamy has worked at Castleton for 15 years and is a major supporter of adding a "college atmosphere" to the school and its neighboring community. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts with a doctorate from Northeastern, Lamy is familiar with the interests and concerns of students in regards to recreational activities.

"This college should have more places for students to hang at in a community-environment," he said. "There are no places open around 8 or 9 p.m. Where do students go during those hours? If they are drinking and driving, there's an issue perhaps."

Drinking in a new idea

Lamy is currently working with students in a movement to bring a pub onto campus. His students have hosted pub nights at the Spartan room in Huden Dining Hall, with each night having a board for student comments.

"We want more students to offer suggestions and help us create this place," he said. "Most of the comments we've received so far have been very positive."

Drinking and driving is an increasing problem in colleges throughout the United States. According to a statement from Dr. Aaron White of Duke University, traffic crashes claim more lives than anything else among young adults and "alcohol is involved in a significant proportion of these deaths."

The students working with Lamy have stressed the need to cut down drinking and driving by creating a safe place.

"They initially wanted the pub as a way to address safe drinking," Lamy said. "These students attested to the pub as a perfect place, but our supporters, including Dean of Students Greg Stone, have a problem with a pub as our response to safer drinking because people might find it contradictory; we thought our reasoning was counter-intuitive.

"Our current pub project - created by students - is focused on building a permanent place on campus and addressing the issue of safe drinking."

Joseph Zeitler, a senior at Castleton, is playing a major role in trying to bring a pub onto campus. The Glens Falls native has worked on the pub's proposal and has met with school President Dave Wolk and Stone for advice on how to convey the group's objectives.

"We wanted to create this place with the thought that any club or organization can host specific meetings or events within this room," Zeitler said. "The students of Castleton deserve this type of place on campus, and it would decrease drunk driving drastically while giving students a place to hang out, rather than just being stuck in the residence buildings."

Not everyone on the bandwagon

Some students and faculty members, however, believe the school provides its students with enough things to do on campus and does not need to add a pub. Judith Carruthers, Castleton's Director of Career Development, has publicly addressed her problems with the group's ideas.

Please see PUB *PAGE 6*

SI writer details leap to Vt. hoops team owner

By Matt Linden
Spartan Staff

Students, faculty and members of the community packed the Old Chapel as a jubilant journalist-turned-businessman detailed his experiences running a professional sports team.

Alexander Wolff, a writer for Sports Illustrated since 1980 and owner of the American Basketball Association's Vermont Frost Heaves, spoke at an event hosted by Castleton's sports administration club.

Less than a month prior to his on-campus arrival, the Frost Heaves completed its inaugural season by capturing the league's championship.

"We are still pinching ourselves for winning the title," Wolff said. "This is proof that having a vision is one thing, but execution is what it's all about."

According to Wolff, he and his wife, Vanessa, had been interested in owning a basketball franchise since 2004.

After an interview with Marty Blake, director of NBA scouting - who was frustrated by the ABA's scheduling - Wolff decided to pursue an opportunity at the professional level.

"I found out through Blake that purchasing an ABA team costs only $10,000," he said. "I figured I could also cover the team for Sports Illustrated and SI.com."

For Wolff, it was not difficult to select a geographic location and nickname for the newfound business.

"I knew Vermont had a track record in minor league sports," he said. "Once we went public with our choice, places in Central Vermont immediately jumped on board as sponsors.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW SARGENT
Alexander Wolff and Shelby Sorrentino

"The idea for our team name came to me in a flash; frost heaves are things that are dynamic and produce an obstacle."

Throughout his speech on a cold Tuesday afternoon, Wolff preached the importance of putting together a squad that represented the team's goals and ideals.

"Our players understood what the team stood for and appreciated the fans' support," he said. "Our mission is to be successful as a community resource as well as winning championships, and I think these players excelled at both."

According to Wolff, the next step for the Frost Heaves is to make the team purchasable by the fans while giving them ownership abilities. The Green Bay Packers is currently the only sports franchise owned by its fans.

Wolff's various methods toward building a successful product both on and off the playing field were influential to at least one sports administration major in attendance.

"His values of putting together a community-friendly team and giving fans more than they paid for definitely opened my eyes a bit," junior Jordan McGee said. "At first, I thought teams were just about winning championships."

With the basketball season concluded, the Princeton graduate has now returned to the Sports Illustrated newsroom. While he acclimates back to his life as a sportswriter, Wolff believes this season's accomplishments will impact more than just him and his players.

"The magazine was very generous about me balancing writing and the team," he said following the lecture. "But the kick we, as a team and members of the community, got out of this whole experience can not be duplicated."

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Joanna Doolan

It's 4:30 a.m. The entire campus is silent, everyone is sleeping. The sun is about to rise and the birds about to chirp.

What am I doing? Just getting back to my room.

This last week after vacation has been interesting enough that my sleeping habits have changed - I have none now.

This semester, I have gotten at least six or seven hours of sleep a night, which was only enough to keep me going. First semester I definitely got that amount, or more.

Now, two to four hours of sleep is my current average of time each night (or morning). This being entirely my fault, I choose not to complain, however just comment on how the world works when you are sleep deprived, yet somehow happy.

Everyone has gone without sleep every now and again, so of course you guys probably all know how these shenanigans go down. You are in this daze where you are so tired that you aren't tired. You sort of listen in class, take notes if you feel like it, and get your homework done ten minutes before the class begins.

And you keep telling yourself "tonight I'm going to bed early" or "tonight I'm doing that paper which is due next week."

Instead, you hang out with people, do random BS that doesn't mean anything, and waste away into the morning hours.

This is my life folks.

Hopefully only temporarily. Wait, I don't mean that. Maybe. Indecisive Jo strikes again.

I want to sleep, and do my work well, but I also have a good reason to stay up (in my mind).

The only problem is I can get cranky. I mean, bite your head off cranky. I don't even mean to either, because I'm not usually a bag of sunshine and kittens. Then with the lack of sleep on top of that, watch out.

It might be because usually I am pretty laid back with people, so when I get tired I am insensitive and whiny. I have got to work on that.

If you hear me whine, feel free to smack me. Besides the whining, I have been having a pretty good time. It's weird how the events of a school year can escalade in a random direction and something happens that you would have never expected.

I don't want the year to end. I mean, I do because I'm stressed and sick of papers and ready for vacation. Other than that I'm having a pretty good time. Thoughy there's always next year.

There's one thing I don't want to leave. Not just yet.

Life is funny like that. Everything goes "perfect" just for long enough to screw you over in the end.

So sleeping seems like such a waste of time. A waste of moments, which I only have a short time to savor.

School is very important to me. I want to finish this semester as well as I did last semester. I think I've learned the balance of school and fun, except in the past week. I had a lot of time where I was free to work. Instead, I played Guitar Hero, or checked my Myspace. Frivolous stuff like that.

At this moment actually, I should be writing an English paper. Instead I spill my thoughts out onto the computer screen and prepare myself for another night of fun.

As bird flu looms, country prepares

Local farmer says he's worried that the disease may affect his ability to provide for his family

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

The state of Vermont was brutally damaged. Young children and adults were dying suddenly and at a quick rate. Those who survived were traumatically forced to watch friends and family suffer.

During the fall of 1918, an influenza pandemic, otherwise known as the "Spanish Flu," had spread throughout the United States and killed over 600,000 people. While the origins of this illness were unknown, researchers speculated that contact between humans and rabid birds created the devastating pandemic.

Almost a century later, our nation is anticipating the arrival of an Avian influenza virus, commonly referred to as "Bird Flu".

What is the bird flu?

It is unknown exactly when the influenza pandemic will make its debut in the United States, but the possible effects of its arrival are life-threatening.

The Avian bird flu is a contagious illness originally found in the intestines of wild birds, and has the ability to rapidly spread from birds to domestic poultry. Humans can become infected with the disease through contact with wild birds or previously contaminated poultry.

"Once the flu warnings become serious, that is when we need to be careful with consuming poultry and having close contact with birds," said Mary Lou Bolt, Rutland's District Director of the Vermont Department of Health. "Right now, there is no reason to panic; however, we should be knowledgeable of what the bird flu can do and report outbreaks as soon as possible."

The symptoms of the bird flu are similar to those of a common cold, but the disease can also result in breathing problems and pneumonia.

According to a recent Reuters report, two Indonesian men complained of breathing problems and were tested positive for the Avian flu. Due to the lack of medicine and proper treatment in the country, Indonesia is struggling to contain the bird flu outbreaks.

"We should closely watch the situation in countries like Indonesia and Egypt in order to learn from their mistakes," said Dr. Marie Pavini, who works at Rutland Regional Medical Center. "The flu will hit us sometime soon and each family needs to be prepared."

Concerns and preparing for the flu season

The disease has already brought panic upon U.S. citizens and is rapidly spreading around countries in Europe, Asia and Africa on a daily basis. Once it enters the United States, the influenza pandemic could ruin the economy and result in a decrease of jobs.

"I am very worried that I will have trouble supporting my family if the bird flu is discovered in our state," said Tim Darensbourg, a local farmer from Fair Haven. "I have no control of what the government is doing to help us prepare, but I can only hope they keep us farmers in mind during the outbreaks."

The U.S. government has planned to purchase over 400 million vaccine shots in preparation of the bird flu season. These vaccine shots have been tested recently on mice and chicken, but further analysis on the test results have not been disclosed to the public, according to the Associated Press.

Small colleges like Castleton State could be at a significant disadvantage when the bird flu enters the United States. Whether the illness appears next month or next year, doctors are not sure how many students will be able to receive proper treatment.

"I would like to say that everyone will be properly tested for bird flu in the area, but we are unaware of the circumstances to come," Pavini said. "My main advice for students is to have somewhere safe to stay in case of a serious outbreak."

Paper lengthening method fools no one

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Students think they can dupe teachers into believing they met the required paper length, but professors have a differing opinion.

"Most teachers know what the tricks are," English professor Andrew Alexander said. "They are not fooling anyone by doing these things."

Alexander, who has seen most of the old tricks, stumbled upon a new technique posted on a video website that claims its technique is undetectable. It shows students how to enlarge periods in order to make the paper longer, though cautions against using commas or other punctuation because they are more noticeable.

"It's a clever trick, but now their teachers know to look out for it," writing clinic tutor Benn Labarge said.

When asked, students can list the paper lengthening techniques that they admit to using or hearing about being used.

"There's always double spacing, messing with the fonts, whatever you can do, repeat yourself a little different to get more sentences in there," sophomore Megan Morton said.

Alexander claims that it doesn't matter what technique is used as much as the "topics not addressed in as much depth as they might be."

Laberge agreed.

"People waste too much time thinking these things up when you could add more thought and detail," he said. "There's always a little more you can add."

Other professors tend to agree with the sentiment that content is more important than the length of a paper.

"To hand in a short paper or synthetically lengthened means the content is inadequate," english professor Flo Keyes said. "You can't change what you said by making it look longer."

Keyes uses page ranges to let the students know how in-depth they need to go in their research and development.

"You can't go as in depth in five pages as in ten," Keyes said.

"A lame paper is a lame paper. . ."

ENGLISH PROFESSOR FLO KEYES

Some teachers, like Keyes, will take a grade off for every page under the required length that the paper is. Others, like Alexander, will grade the content accordingly and point out the content that could have been more thorough if the paper met the appropriate length.

"If substance isn't there, you won't get the grade," Keyes said. "A lame paper is a lame paper, no matter if you try to make it fit the paper length or not."

Heath Haskell, who works in the writing clinic, said that not many people come in looking for help to lengthen their paper, but if they did, his reply would be to make main points better and more impacting.

Andre Fleche in the history, government, politics, and economics department stated that it was "ironic" that students spent so much time filling out the paper length rather than the content.

"Quite often students freak out about page length, not support, which is the important thing when we talk about writing," Fleche said.

In the science department, Mark Fox doesn't see a lot of paper lengthening because he usually assigns short papers and makes the expectations clear about margins, font size, and length.

"There's really no question if determined ahead of time," Fox said.

Nursing student, Kirana Fowler, agreed that expectations are helpful, "otherwise you find yourself putting stuff in you don't need."

Loving the music department

By Eric Seel
Spartan Contributer

As you walk into the office of professor Ronald Sherwin you are immediately faced with a welcoming atmosphere.

Posters line the walls paying homage to great musicians like The Eagles, Pink Floyd, and other classical artists. The wooden accents and red carpet add a homey feel to this roomy office that any professor would envy.

Sherwin is an alumnus of Castleton State College, graduating in 1995. He works alongside his wife, Sarah McQuarrie, who he says is fabulous to work with, although her joining him at Castleton does have its downfalls.

The biggest benefit and biggest problem with the situation is too much Castleton talk, says Sherwin. He said they often get on rants about Castleton and everything they are looking forward to, then stop and say they need to stop.

"Then just a few minutes later, we are back on the topic of Castleton," he said.

"They both make the class a lot of fun," said Michelle Ross, a Castleton senior who is also in the school choir led by the Sherwins.

There are even students like Matt Hession and Michelle Ross who joined the choir without getting any credit for it.

"The support from everyone really makes this work," Sherwin said.

The music department gets a lot of support from students and staff alike and it's what makes the job worthwhile, according to Sherwin.

They put on fantastic shows and will be going on tour in April, however none of it would be possible without the hard work of the entire music department, Sherwin said.

The thing Sherwin said he likes most about Castleton is a true concern by all for the community and a drive to get things done.

He said he feels that the music department especially is raising the bar and striving to achieve.

"You want to make it happen, we can make it happen," he said of the energy with in his department.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW SARGETN
Ron Sherwin

There are record-breaking auditions and enrollment in the program is increasing dramatically, he said. There are also great opportunities to perform at all over the northeast, including a trip to Carnegie Hall last May.

Sherwin is exited to see the music department evolve and grow, and hopes to help guide it along its way. He talks very highly of his students and the faculty.

He said because of them, "I have the best job in the world."

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Think about wha you say

Janet Gillett

When you look around room, you don't know w those people's pasts consist or the things they've expe enced -- yet many seemin innocent expressions have tendency to give you clues.

The other night my frie said she wished someone wo shoot her, a phrase most of have used many times. T time, however, was shortly af the Virginia Tech shooting. I my tongue, not wanting to po it out, but she called herself it.

I was happy she recogniz her poor choice of wor because not many of us when it comes to expressions

The phrase I cannot stand comparing something to seizure, whether the person dancing or doing whatever. M dad had epilepsy, I know what seizure looks like and I al know that anyone who has w nessed a seizure would nev use that expression. Sure we a have slips of the tongue, but what expense?

Every time I hear this expre sion, even though it has bee five years since he died, remember all too well what looks like when someone has seizure. No, it's not a pret sight, but someone with ba dancing moves can never com pare to the horror of actuall witnessing a seizure.

And how is it that a one-sy lable word meaning happy ha come to be so resentful and neg ative? Gay should be used t refer to its original meaning o the population of homosexuals yet, every day it can be hear referring to something a perso deems lame. Do people realiz with one word how many peo ple they are belittling?

Even the mental illness o mental retardation has becom overused and given a negativ connotation to the point tha health officials are thinkin about changing the name of th illness so those associations wil not label a child who does in fact suffer from mental retarda tion. Calling another person a retard is more offensive than t the person it is directed because it targets all those who have the illness and bashes them.

Language is a form of communication, so why do we manipulate it to be so hurtful and cruel?

Even something as simple as people wishing each other a happy holiday on April 20 angers and hurts people. It no longer just stands for a day to go smoke pot (you do it anyway why do you need a day to celebrate the disgusting habit?), but as a day that Columbine was infiltrated and people died. This past Friday was a national day of mourning for those who died in the Virginia Tech shooting, yet here are many students calling across yards to each other to light up. Even if they are not mourning, it's a lack of respect for those who are mourning.

Then there are those who mention death such as "I'm going to kill myself" or "He should go kill himself." If anyone who has known someone who committed suicide hears these phrases, the guilt comes flooding back. It's hard enough to get over when it first happens, but over and over it is thrown in their face as their peers continue to speak without really thinking.

Maybe it's because they don't actually think about what these expressions mean and they repeat them like robots.

Words have power. Power to heal and power to hurt. Think about what you say because who knows who hears you.

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all your SOUNDINGS information

IN ONE SPOT

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Was it a success? A flop? Please contact a Soundings instructor or Spartan advisor David Blow to share your thoughts.

EVENT COUNTDOWN

2 LEFT

Quotable Lines:

Brad Coupe "Biologists Are People Too"
What did you learn about Charles Darwin from today's presentation?

I learned that Charles Darwin was a man ahead of his time. He had great ideas with logical evidence, but due to popular and more realistic views from the public they were dismissed. Darwin founded what biologists today base their theories and experiments on.
- Kyle Wytas

He flunked out of medical school, dropped out of seminary school, but he had a very creative way of thinking about our world, like Aristotle, Plato, Einstein, and many others. They all thought outside of the box and very differently than everyone else, and they helped shape our continuing knowledge of the world.
- Brendan Lacaillade

Johannes Wallmann, Jazz Piano Trio
The trio has a venerable history in jazz. What does each instrument (piano, bass, percussion) contribute to the overall musical effect?

From the piano comes the melody and the familiar classical sound. The drums provide the tempo and beat for the song. I feel like the bass is really where the jazz sound comes from, the wandering lines of the bass makes the trio have a really improvised sound.
- Avram Feld

The piano contributes the melody of the piece. It acts as the soul if you will, and is the constant. The drums, I feel, is the spontaneity of the piece. It keeps the rhythm and energy at a steady pace. The bass acts as backbone. It is a strong yet sudden sound.
- Karalyn Marshall

LAST CHANCE

Coming up Next:

Music

April 26:
7 p.m., FAC Casella Theatre, Boston Brass
"Classical arrangements, breathtaking vocal harmony, burning jazz interpretations . . . repartee . . . humor and personality"--relax, enjoy and let the end of semester pressures fade away for awhile.

Comedy

May 1:
7 p.m., FAC Casella Theatre, Robert Post
Come laugh away your stress.

Tune in next semester for more events.

PHOTOS BY JANET GILLETT

Left: Students chant at the Take Back the Night march
Below: Yvette Furnia and Linda Olson lead the march in chants

Take back the night

Women's Issues Club sponsers twelfth annual march across town to raise awareness of violence

By Joanna Doolan
Spartan Staff

If you were to look outside on the night of April 10, you would have probably seen an unlikely gathering of students and teachers with lit candles in hand. This group, despite the cold, strolled up and down pathways, blocked traffic, and chanted words such as "Hey hey, ho ho, yes means yes and no means no."

This walk was one portion of the Take Back the Night march and speak out, which was put together by the Women's Issues Club.

Castleton started getting involved with Take Back the Night 12 years ago, but it has been in existence since the '70s. Take Back the Night was created to unify communities, so they can talk out about ending rape and domestic violence.

The event also included a talk with Wynona Ward, an attorney from the group called Have Justice Will Travel, an organization that was created to help victims of violence in the home. Ward started HJWT nine years ago, and along with four other attorneys, two interns and many others, has helped over 10,000 women and children. They offer in-home consultation, where they sit in the women's kitchen to discuss court dates and issues.

"The heart of the Have Justice model is providing direct legal representation for women and children," Ward said.

After they handle the legal situation, HJWT handles the family's holistic needs, helping women transition into their new abuse-free lives.

With a "patchwork quilt of funding," as Ward referred it, the group gets generous contributions from all over, including the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ever since its first week in September 1998, HJWT has helped victims overcome their problem and grow stronger from the experience.

"I can't thank them enough," a client of HJWT named Patricia Larkin said.

After Ward spoke, she, along with the audience and the organizers of the event, took lit candles in Dixie cups, and walked across campus, down around Main Street and back to the Campus Center.

To end the night, there was an open forum where anyone could speak out about their experiences with rape and domestic abuse.

"We will not stop violence until we stop the generational cycle of abuse," Ward said.

CSC hosts 4th annual Total Backstage Access

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

All day on Saturday April 14, students, faculty and local bands came together to play the fourth annual Total Backstage Access in the Fine Arts Center.

I went to TBA for two bands and two bands only: DownPlay and Ambulia. Truth is, they are the only acts I showed up to see. I heard a few of them on the radio, but only snippets.

DownPlay started to perform shortly after 2 p.m. to a diverse crowd. There were probably two punk and emo kids, and the DownPlay "groupies." One girl had a head full of dreads and a there was a guy with numerous tattoos and both ears fully pierced. These people are metal people.

"There wasn't a lot of people, I was kind of bummed. I didn't really get into it," said vocalist CJ.

The members that make up DownPlay prove that metal isn't just a genre of music, it's a lifestyle. On stage these boys just breathe metal.

CJ's voice sounds brutal, raw, deep and dark. Sadly, the loud sound of the instrumentals overpowered his voice, which sometimes was hard to hear. I think possibly because there was no time for the TBA crew to do a sound check.

Josh, who plays lead guitar, has the whole metal package. He plays really fast, has a long hair covered in a bandana, a beard, along with a number of facial piercings. He dresses in traditional metal garb like cut off cameo pants and a t-shirt with cut off sleeves. He is the stereotypical metal head.

Chris is always fooling around with his bass guitar. He often hops around stage making funny faces pretending his bass is a machine gun or plays it over his head slapping his bass strings and messing with his distortion pedals making some crazy sounds.

Lucien, on rhythm guitar, looks like some type of human windmill. As you watch him circle head bang, his hair whirls around like the thunderous blades of a helicopter propeller blowing you away.

Fred gets completely consumed by the music. His demeanor is great, his facial expressions are great, like when he grits his teeth like sadistic smile and menacingly sticks out his tongue as he pounds on his drums and stomps away on his double bass pedals.

DownPlay played a number of original songs, along with some covers by metal legends such as Tool, the Deftones and 40 Below Summer.

One Castleton student became an instant fan of DownPlay.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ENNIS DULING
Performer at TBA

"These guys rock. You wouldn't happen to have them on your iTunes?" asked senior Steve Hartmann.

It was then Ambulia's big debut to the world. As I watched the band practice they were full of nervous energy. Julian Defelice and Tom Hutner excitedly talked to me about the line up for their set at 8 p.m. that night.

"We're playing some of people's favorites of the album, some new songs and one called "Mr. Frederick the Olive Farmer," Defelice said jokingly.

On stage Ambulia paints an interesting and unique picture. They are a blend of hip-hop, punk with techno and metal influences. The sound is amazing and the look different.

Defelice looked like a 1930s street musician. He wore a gray fedora hat with matching pants, an old stripped button up shirt and suspenders. His guitar playing was fast and loud. His voice was raw, emotional and sometimes he even screamed, not typical Defelice, but good nonetheless.

Hutner looked like a punk kid who had slept in his car for three days before the show, but he made us all step back as he starting spitting rhymes like M&Ms. Hutner also rocked out hard on his guitar.

Tennis racket player Shawn Dayton got many laughs as he slammed away on the racket and danced like a robot. He was also dressed like a 1980s acid rocker in tight jeans with holes in the knee, a cameo AC/DC shirt, chains, leather biker gloves, spikes and black shades.

Billy Comstock, bassist for the band Twiddle, was not that impressed with the performance.

"I like Julian as a musician, but once again I think he was unable to match the quality of the studio recorded live," said Comstock.

REVIEWS

AUDIO: Sage Francis

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

Is it okay to steal the title of your friend's poem and use it for your newest album release?

Hip-hop artist Sage Francis' second major release 'Human Death Dance' hits record stores on May 8. The album is titled after a poem by Buddy Wakefield, which is featured on the song Going Back To Rehab.

Francis has actively been involved in the underground hip-hop scene since the 1980s, but didn't start to break into the mainstream until he won the Scibble Jam battle competition in 2000. Before becoming a full-type MC, Sage Francis obtained two degrees, an associate's degree in communications from Dean College, and a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Rhode Island.

Francis has self-released a number of albums, all of which are available for free download at his Web site. In 2002, he became one of the few hip-hop artists to sign with a punk label. He signed a three-album deal with Epitaph records, the first of which was 'A Healthy Distrust.'

Francis is primarily a hip-hop artist, but blends other genres in his music, genres including folk, punk and orchestra music. He is a genius when it comes to songwriting, discussing many concepts like politics, media, relationships and religion as examples.

The new album features a 32-page booklet written by him. In the booklet, he thanks fans for purchasing the album and describes his inspirations or thoughts about particular songs on the album.

My favorite songs on the album include Got Up This Morning, Hoofprints in the Sand, and Good Fashion.

Got Up This Morning is a great song. The soundtrack consists of some folk harmonica and fiddle mixed with a nice head-bobbing beat. For this song, Francis got help from a few old friends. The beat was made by Buck 65, harmonica done by Nathan Harrop and vocals and fiddle by Jolie Holland. All in all, this song is sick.

Hoofprints in the Sand is a song that touches a number of important issues. He talks about social concepts like healthcare, welfare, the poor being exploited by the rich, Christianity and self-worship.

"The people in the top tax bracket just keep looking for freebies, thumbing their noses at those in need of hand outs. I'm talkin' panhandlers with second-hand clothes living hand to mouth, camping on Capitol Hill," as an example.

Good Fashion discusses self-confliction. Francis uses sunglasses as a metaphor for the emotional walls we put up to separate ourselves from the world. The major reason this is a favorite of mine is the instrumentals. The music written and performed by Mark Isham is orchestral and has some sick violin parts.

Francis resembles many underground hip-hop artist that are slowly making their way into the mainstream including Immortal Technique, Atmosphere an POS.

VIDEO: Grindhouse

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

Paying homage to the grand days of filmmaking, Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino have presented an experience any B-movie fan can appreciate. Wanting to do a second collaboration after Sin City, Rodriguez and Tarantino decided to make their next film as partners. Their idea is something that has not been done since the heydays of drive-in theaters and double features.

Grindhouse's innovative explosion of sensory overload sticks out like a sore thumb in the muck of bad (and some good) Hollywood movies and gives the viewer an experience that no other movie that is currently playing can. The two filmmakers delve into the world of bad (or to some people wonderful) filmmaking and make a great movie.

Grindhouse is two movies with a series of trailers in between. Back in the 1950's, 60's and 70's when filmmakers were pumping out movie after movie, Roger Corman would shoot one movie in two weeks or even less. This is an insane short period of time when compared to a Hollywood movies that can take a month or more. Most of these films were only an hour long so they would give the viewer a two-for-one deal, you'd get to watch two films for the price of one.

Grindhouse refers to pumping out movie after movie like a factory, resulting in some not so great films. This results in bad acting, special effects or editing, what you get in Rodriguez and Tarantino's Grindhouse.

Grindhouse combines the bad filmmaking and even the grainy and scratched film look of when double features were popular with modern day settings and special effects. The "experience" opens with a short preview for a movie called Machete, a taste of the other fake trailers to come. The preview is complete with cheesy narration, bad acting and a ridiculous story line.

The first film, Planet Terror directed by Robert Rodriguez, is the better of the two films, because Planet Terror had the bad acting, cheesy lines, "Nothing is the easiest thing to remember, so remember it," scratched film look and ridiculous action scenes where random cars blowing up for no reason.

Death Proof was too good of a movie with Tarantino's cinematography and dialogue to be a B-movie.

B-movies usually don't have intriguing camera movement or realistic dialogue. They typically have mundane camera work and "so-bad-it's-funny" dialogue. Rodriguez did have some good camera shots, but he made up for it with everything else I mentioned about Planet Terror. Tarantino could have done a much better job by making his camera shots more simplistic and his scenes with dialogue shorter (they sometimes seemed to drag on). But other than that, Tarantino had a movie worth watching.

This movie shows the mass public a glimpse at the underworld of B-movies and all their glory. I will definately be at FYE when it comes out to buy this great underground cinema.

Jumps

President Wolk working on emergency safety plan

: VT
From page 1

wondering if their campuses could also fall victim to such an event.

Castleton student Megan Morton brought up such questions in a recent letter to The Spartan staff.

"The chances of such a tragedy at Castleton are slim we know, but it can in fact happen anywhere," Morton said. "Even to our own small college with a big heart."

Morton pointed out that it wasn't long ago that Vermont also experienced a similar event on a smaller scale.

In August of last year, an enraged 27-year-old Christopher Williams, armed with a gun, went into the elementary school in Essex, Vt. in search of his ex-girlfriend. Although Williams was unable to find her, by the end of the day, two people -- one of them a teacher at the school -- were killed while several were left wounded.

Ben Beatty-Owens, a CSC student who spent the majority of his spring semester traveling around in Mexico. He had only been back in the U.S. for a few weeks when the shooting hit the headlines.

He placed a great deal of blame for the shooting on American society, stating that it is America's nature that leads it to react to situations with such hostility and violence.

"When something goes wrong, our society teaches us to respond with violence," Beatty-Owens said. "It's like the president responding to an issue with a foreign government with cruise missiles."

Cho was described as a social outcast at Virginia Tech with a history of violent tendencies and was suspected to pose a potential threat to himself and those around him. He was accused of obsessively stalking numerous female students on campus and his professors urged him to seek counseling. He was admitted for psychiatric evaluation in December of 2005.

A Castleton student, who wished to keep her identity private, admitted during a recent event with CSC President Dave Wolk that she too has experienced incidents with a CSC student who shared some of Cho's tendencies.

"Last year, I went through hell with someone [on campus] I had been friends with, who pretty much turned almost psycho," she said. "We called public safety and received barely any help," she said.

"I actually had to go to the State Police to get a protection order against this person. I don't feel as safe as I should."

Castleton President David Wolk has been working diligently with Dean of Administration and Emergency Planning Group chairman Bill Allen to perfect an "Emergency Management Plan." The plan is to be made available to students sometime this week and will help students understand what processes are being put in place to react to any such incidents on CSC ground.

"We can never accurately predict human behavior, but we can make our best efforts to prevent tragedy and to prepare and protect our community in the event of an emergency," Wolk said at the event, sponsored by The Spartan.

Castleton plans to hold a commemorative memorial in honor of the lives lost at Virginia Tech. Details of the plan are expected to be announced shortly.

Students say college should consider cameras

: Security
From page 1

dures for specific emergencies, and information dealing with any considerations related to an emergency that the committee could envision," according to a campus wide e-mail Wolk sent on April 19.

Allen said the plan started last summer when it was apparent that the school needed one. Prior to this plan, there were different pieces of plans scattered across campus. The new one, which was developed from looking at and taking pieces from a dozen other school's emergency plans, will make it easier for everyone, Allen said.

Although the detailed plan may help if a disaster occurs on campus, they acknowledge there is no way to predict human behavior or make any college campus completely safe.

"Keeping everyone safe is the responsibility of all of us as a community," Allen said.

He then noted that CSC recently spent over $100,000 for card reader access to ensure that only residents could get into resident halls, but she said students now prop doors open with rocks or empty cans.

At an April 19 luncheon sponsored by The Spartan, students had the opportunity to ask Wolk questions about security, along with whatever else was on their minds.

Topics ranged from food quality and an 18-year-old drinking age (which Wolk supports) to the quality of the newspaper - but security measure dominated the discussion.

Although some students feel that more measures should be taken around campus to ensure a safer atmosphere, others, like Jennifer Manning, said there is a fine line between security and violations of personal privacy, which random searches and surveillance in dorms would be breaking.

Allen, in a separate interview, said that surveillance in parking lots and hallways has been considered, but that he likes to think that it isn't needed. He added that when the South Street parking lot gets renovated this summer, wiring for surveillance will be done, although surveillance cameras will not initially be installed.

Manning, a junior who attended the luncheon, was one of those students that thought random searches and surveillance would be going too far.

"I think that searching people with backpacks would be violating their personal rights. This is a college and we should have rights," Manning said.

As students discussed measures that could be taken, Wolk scribbled down notes on a piece of paper as fast as he could. He said he appreciated the input and suggested a campus talk be held where more students could share their thoughts with administration.

No time has yet been made for this meeting.

Pub would need town's approval

: Pub
From page 3

"I am 100 percent against a pub on campus," Carruthers said. "There are over 40 clubs on campus with events to plan and attend; there are 20-plus sports teams with innumerable games to play or go watch.

"The 'Cheers' atmosphere of a pub is just a television fantasy and is completely unrealistic."

But Lamy wants a pub or another place where students can interact in a responsible manner added as soon as possible, but he realizes that the town might not be welcoming to a livelier atmosphere.

"Our society is fearful to college drinking," he said. "When I found out that John Rehlen is expanding the Deli and will use the extra room for a pasta restaurant, I encouraged him to make that place a pub instead. I think he quickly turned down the idea to avoid any problems with the community."

Before the proposed pub is installed on campus or in the Castleton community, the Town Select Board must approve the measure at a town meeting.

According to Lamy, the Board has a history of giving the school and its faculty a hard time with granting liquor licenses for on-campus events. More than one board member and Town Manager Jon Dodd declined to comment on the proposed pub.

Zeitler will be doing an independent study with Lamy in the fall to further advocate the campus pub project, and hopes the community will support their efforts.

"I think the town of Castleton should realize that in order to be successful, their primary objective should be to focus on the needs and interests of CSC students," Zeitler said. "Not focusing on the students' needs and interests could be detrimental to the profits of the town's businesses."

CSC upgrades

: Construction
From page 1

The expansion of Black Science is part of phase three in the master plan, which President David Wolk has approved to help restore and upgrade Castleton.

Bill Allen said that this summer they will also be paving and putting lights in the South Street parking lot, also known to students as "Africa". There will also be a cement sidewalk built between the parking lot and campus. Morril Hall will get a makeover from top to bottom while Ellis Hall's front staircase will also be redone.

To make the crosswalks safer for pedestrians, they want to reduce the speed of drivers and light the cross walks.

"We'll be pretty busy now that I hear myself say that," Allen said about the plans that they hope to complete over the summer.

Community helps storm victims

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

After the recent windstorm knocked out electricity to thousands of Rutland residents' electricity, Castleton students and professors stepped in to help.

Professor Joanna Pencak opened her house last Wednesday to those in the CSC community who were without power to take showers and have a hot meal. Since by then most people had power or found a place to stay, no one from the college showed up.

"Isn't that what a small school is supposed to do?" Pencak asked. "Help each other out."

As of late last week, South Main Street was the only area left without power, but residents were promised power back by Saturday.

But although power was restored to most, there were still countless trees crashed through roofs and lawn damage. To help clean up, 30 students, including the hockey team, Student Association, and several faculty members volunteered to load 25 dumpsters with debris, according to Avi Springer.

"At The Center for the Support and Study of the Community, we try to respond to needs in the community whenever we can, and obviously there was a big need for volunteers after this storm," said Springer.

For residents whose houses received the brunt of the storm, the Central Vermont/New Hampshire Valley Chapter Red Cross, directed by Elizabeth Finlayson, opened a shelter in Rutland and one in Brandon.

Classes on April 18 were abuzz with talk of the storm among those who were kept out of class on Monday and Tuesday. Students regaled their stories of power loss and damage in their houses.

Student Jaime Olson lost her power early Monday morning and did not get it back until late Wednesday. She still made it to class on Tuesday, however, stating she "felt selfish going to school and sitting in a heated classroom."

She and her family used a generator while their power was out, switching between plugging in the heater and the refrigerator. Though Olson found it was "impossible to do homework by candlelight," her family was able to play board games to pass time.

Other students decided to circumvent the power outage and stay at a hotel or temporarily move back in with their parents.

"It was a little weird going back," Genevieve Wilcox said about taking her two children to live with her parents until their power was back.

Wilcox, who hadn't lived with her parents in 12 years, decided to stay with them because it was "an inconvenience" to have kids and no electricity. She talked about feeling lucky, however, that there was no damage to their house, besides a damaged fence.

Seniors give away cash

By Jazmin Averbuck
Spartan Staff

It's April and seniors will be graduating in less than a month.

It's time to buy the senior class gift for the school to show gratitude to the college, and you realize that there are not enough funds to buy that gift .

What are you going to do?

Have a fundraiser of course.

And that is exactly what the senior class of 2007 is doing. And the fundraiser will be ... drum roll please ... cash calendars!

Each person who donates $5 to the senior class will be entered twice into a drawing for the chance to win a randomized amount of money designated on the cash calendar.

The drawings will start to take place on April 28 and will continue once each day as a countdown to commencement.

Senior class treasurer, Seth Tuper said that if all 500 cash calendars are sold the total proceeds will equal approximately $1,500.

The senior class gift will be a locally made granite bench to be placed in the Senator's Court, the soon to be renovated area outside of the Stafford Academic Center.

If you would like to help the senior class, you can contact the senior officers by campus e-mail; Michael Trzciensky, president, Ariel Delaney, vice president, or Seth Tuper, treasurer.

For only $5 you can help the senior class and the chance to win up to $950 cash.

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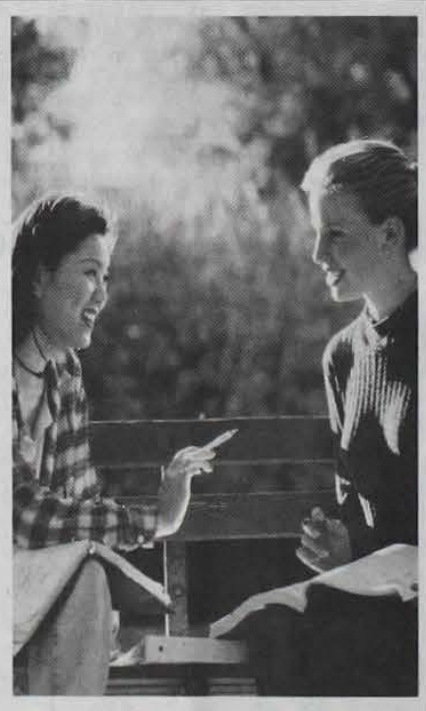
MBA
Physician Assistant
Interactive Communications
Teaching
Biomedical Sciences
Molecular/Cell Biology
Journalism
Nursing
Accounting
Computer Information Systems



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ON THE STREET

Jackie Borelli

Q: Tell me about your favorite Ben and Jerry's Flavor

NATASHA REPASS

"Jamaican Me Crazy, because I like pineapples and the name is pretty cool too."

YVETTE FURNIA

"I heart Chunky Monkey because it has bananas and chocolate, my two favorite things."

TRACY STALA

"Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough, because the cookie dough is so delicious."

KRISTIN MULHOLLAND

"Half Baked because there is so much flavor mixed in together."

WILLIAM H. WATSON IV

"Cherry Garcia, because its named after a great man."

Nice to meet you: Mary Shaw

Mary is the second-shift supervisor of Fireside Café. Nicknamed "Mean Mary" while working at Huden, she has been working at Castleton State College since July of 2005.

Jazmin Averbuck, Spartan Staff

Birthday:
July 14

Hometown:
Rutland, VT

Favorite color:
Emerald green

Favorite season:
"Spring, everything is new, and fresh, and green."

Favorite food:
"Delmonico steak with crab meat bisque."

Favorite song:
'The General' by Dispatch

Food quality wise... Fireside or Huden?
"Huden, it is healthier food."

Food taste wise... Fireside or Huden?
"Fireside, naturally if it's not healthy than it tastes better."

What do you like most about your job?
"The kids, there are just so many backgrounds and I admire all their aspirations."

What do you do for fun when you aren't here at Castleton?
"I spend time with my family. In the winter I love to snowmobile and in the summer I enjoy gardening, swimming, and riding my Kawasawki Ninja 500."

Best memory of CSC?
"The laughter I have shared with Brianne and Shelby Williamson. They really know how to make me laugh."

Any words of wisdom that you have for the students at CSC?
"Keep focused on your goals and continue to strive until you reach it."

Alumni Profile

Michael J. Deyoe
Class of 1996

"I can truly say that I am motivated and excited about each day at the office."

Castleton Experience

I attended Castleton in 1994 with a vision to become a business educator. My first walk of the campus with faculty and students convinced me that choosing CSC was the right move for my career. After a few discussions with my counselor, I learned that becoming a secondary business education major required a triple major.

Although the thought of a triple major was not most appealing, I accepted the challenge as I trusted the required curriculum would best prepare me to achieve my vision. Faculty such as Radha Bhatkal, William Kuehn and Ernest Bourgeois all had great impact and influence on my CSC experience as well as choices made later in life. Although each of these individuals taught different disciplines, each gave me important tools that have helped me in life and business situations.

Ultimately, Castleton led me to the 4+1 MBA program at Clarkson University.

Post Castleton

During the MBA program at Clarkson University I became determined to complete a Ph.D. program and become a business professor. I applied to several programs, but soon learned that high GPA and solid GRE scores were not enough to compete with the other applicants. For example, upon follow-up with the Haas School of Business at Berkeley, I discovered that only 10 or so were accepted out of more than 100 who applied and several of those chosen already held their first Ph.D. in statistics or other business disciplines. At that point, although my vision did not change, my tactics to achieve it turned to another path.

I decided that I needed a solid business career as a CPA, experience with a 'Big Five' accounting firm and several years of private industry experience to gain the business and management expertise necessary to "teach." This, I became convinced, would eventually lead me down the path to becoming a business educator.

Current career

Currently I am a NYS licensed CPA and private equity manager for The Ayco Company, L.P., a Goldman Sachs Company. I gained my public accounting experience with PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLC. Since joining The Ayco Co., L.P. in 2002, I can truly say that I am motivated and excited about each day at the office. The private equity industry is awesome and our niche business is growing like crazy. In my mind, our people and clients clearly stand out as the best, and Ayco has proven to me over and over that it is the finest company out there. I am truly privileged to have the opportunity to develop my career at Ayco.

Lifestyle

JoAnne and I were married in 1999 and have two children, Brayton and Caroline, 4- and 2-years old respectively. We decided to build in Hartford, N.Y. last year and make this small country town our home due to its proximity to family and friends. Our outdoor hobbies include horseback riding, four-wheeling, motocross, hiking, golf and many other activities. Most importantly, we enjoy spending as much time with our children as possible.

Faculty Column

Roy Vestrich

If all goes as planned, in spring 2008 I will be traveling to London with a group of Castleton students for the semester. As I work on the program, I find myself thinking about how life-changing time abroad can be for young adults. I know that my first journey to Europe nearly 30 years ago profoundly shaped my outlook on life.

In the mid-to-late '70s, I was in my twenties, living in Cambridge, Mass. and working for an art gallery in Boston. Like many people at that age, I was biding my time between college and graduate school - or whatever it was that I was going to do in my "real" future. I worked a somewhat dead-end job, drifted in and out of relationships, and passed my nights at the local jazz bars with friends.

I lived cheaply in a fifth-floor walk-up apartment, and dedicated time to developing my skills as a writer and painter. The workers across the street in Cambridge City Hall Annex were consistently curious; they watched and gestured opinions as I covered large canvases in the tiny space that served as my kitchen, living room and studio. I was grateful that they could not comment on the notebooks I filled with poetry or the novel I began, but (thankfully) never finished.

In the fall of 1978, my uncle, a successful choreographer living and working in London, asked if I would like to help restore an old stone house he had recently purchased in Provence. Let's see, the noisy city workers across the street or a trip to London and room, board and a job in the south of France? That was not a hard decision to make.

I had already traveled a fair amount in the States: the solo rite-of-passage hitchhiking trip from coast to coast after my freshmen year of college, surfing excursions up and down the East Coast, in California and Puerto Rico, and one hot August exploring the Yucatan Peninsula (at a time when Cancun had one or two hotels and unspoiled beaches). But little in those experiences prepared me for the reality of truly living abroad — with no plan of returning to the States.

My first experience in London was hardly average for a young man with a backpack. My uncle's circle of friends included some of the most renowned artists and performers in Europe. Spending time with them was enough to set an aspiring young artist's head spinning. But even if I had not been traveling in such a circle, the pulse, history and sheer beauty of London would have seduced me on its own.

After about a year dividing my time between England and France, I did return to the States to attend graduate school. In 1984, I journeyed back to England and the European continent with my soon-to-be wife, Dawn, for the better part of a summer. Both of us vowed that we would not let more than a few years pass between trips. Although work, family and finances did not allow us that pleasure, we did have the opportunity years later to direct the Castleton London Semester in 1997 and explore the city in some real depth with a group of CSC students.

In the past few years, we have made several trips to the U.K and France for both personal and professional reasons.

As sometimes years or even decades have passed between visits, I have seen how London has changed over time. It is as if I have watched the city grow the way that a geographically distant uncle watches a niece of nephew mature; when you see her or him after years of separation, you notice the changes all at once.

London has certainly changed over the decades. Contemporary forms of architecture and engineering such as the Millennium Bridge remind us that this is a city that does not sit still. But one thing has not changed: London was, is and will remain by any measure one of the truly great cities of the world. No American cities (and I have spent time in most of the major ones) are really comparable.

It is not just the cultural venues, museums, and architecture and pub-life that make London unique, but it is the nearly seamless mix of a history dating back to before the Roman Empire, the strong British traditions, and the vibrancy of the contemporary European community that brings the city to life.

Without question, London is one of the world's few true international hubs, and that status is more evident now than ever.

On that first trip many years ago, perhaps the most profound change for me was that I began to see myself in a fundamental way as citizen of the world, not merely a citizen of nation. I know that some of the students and even my own young children who traveled with me back in 1997 also began to view themselves in a similar manner.

For some students, that international sense of citizenry happened almost immediately. For others, it took time, even years before they realized how important those four months abroad were in broadening their outlooks on life and changing their perspectives on world issues and events. Given the increasingly global nature of our communities, such a vision is a necessary and powerful tool for shaping all of our futures.

Bradford Waterhouse

In a way, taxing people who drive big cars makes sense.

Everyone is worried nowadays about the environment and what impact the things we do daily have on it. Am I leaving the water on too long? Are there too many lights on in the house? Should I stop buying so many paper products or does it not matter?

Many of our simple daily activities that harm our environment are easily avoidable. Don't turn on the shower until right before you get in, turn off lights in the rooms without people and buy recycled products.

So isn't it right that people who buy big cars should pay?

Anyone watching a Hummer (even the smaller, H2 version) lumber down the street can see the look of "Yeah, what of it?" on the driver's face, the complete and obvious lack of any respect for emissions, our ozone and their children's future. That kind of auto is a good way to differentiate between the people who care and the people who, yes, drive Hummers. To buy a Hummer one must have a desire to advertise their environmentally distant attitude.

There is, like many things in life, a "however" to be inserted here.

You can't tax people for buying big cars. As much as we may hate them, and as bad as they are for the environment, taxing individuals with big autos is a discriminatory way to let politicians pretend they have a handle on environmental issues.

People who are going to buy big vehicles will buy big vehicles no matter what the tax. People who like big cars will be willing to pay for big cars because everyone pays for what they want, no matter the price, if they want it badly enough.

What about the people who need big vehicles? Vermont, one of the lone states where farming is still a somewhat viable way of making a living, is going to tax all the farmers who need huge, burly pick-ups to carry the hay bails, the tools, and the equipment that anything less than a truck couldn't handle. And delivery trucks? A big truck is a necessary component to a successful delivery business. Bigger truck=more packages=more efficiency.

The problem isn't the people who buy big cars; it's the companies that make them. If Vermont really wants a tax on big vehicles, tax the car companies until they cringe at the words "Suburban" and "Expedition". Make them never want to manufacture anything bigger than a Pinto and be done with it. While Vermont doesn't have any pull in the car industry, take it to congress. Yes, there will be fighting and disagreement and it will be extremely difficult to get the massive corporations responsible for the auto-makers to do anything. But taxing the little guy who may well need a big vehicle for his job is unfair and works against many of the things that Vermont holds dear.

As boxy and completely unnecessary in urban environments as a Hummer is, it's still someone's choice to buy one. Since you can't differentiate between necessity and desire, taxing everyone with big vehicles is a simple and quick way to pretend that Vermont is working towards a solution. Real solutions, real plans, and real actions need to be taken to help the environment.

Let's not push our fighting over the environment over a line that includes trivial things like a big-car tax. Let's look for something that works.

If not, we might as well tax people with bigger houses too. I'm pretty sure they use more oil.

Sox-Yanks battle gets divided campus rocking

By Shannon Scirla
Spartan Staff

Grab your seeds, pick the red hat or the blue one, and most importantly choose which side of the chalk you're going to stand on, because there is no undecided.

When April hits, it means one thing -- the Red Sox and the Yankees are hitting living rooms, dorm rooms and every kind of radio across the country.

Whether you're Marlins fans wishing you were down in Florida or a disgruntled Cubs fan, or even a hopeless Pirates fan, you mark your ballot for either the Yanks or the Sox.

The Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees are historically the biggest rivalry in American sports.

Both teams are in the American League East division and jockey for first place for the whole 162 games of the year.

"This is the epitome of baseball," said sophomore and diehard Yankees fan Matt Murphy, between handfuls of Cheetos on Friday night.

The Yankees and Red Sox squared off for their first series Friday night.

The series brings a different kind of emotion that rolls throughout the campus at Castleton State College.

It's impossible to overlook the chants and screaming that echo throughout the campus during a Yankees-Sox series.

Maybe if you were standing by Paul's Pizza, you were able to hear sophomore Ben Killary scream from his third story window in Haskell Hall after Yankees third baseman, Alex Rodriguez, tattooed a home run over the Green Monster.

"Let's go Yankees," Killary chanted repeatedly, as Red Sox fans across campus fell silent.

There is no question this small united campus becomes divided once the series begins. Many friends begin to split apart by just putting on different baseball jerseys.

"This is not just a game for me. If we lose I don't want to eat, sleep, drink or study... I just want to fight a Yankees fan," sophomore Josh Howe said.

Howe's comment was in a joking manner, but when you look at the whole picture, it really puts into perspective how intense this rivalry has become.

In 2005, Rodriguez and Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek broke out into a fist fight after the two exchanged words when Rodriguez was plunked by a Bronson Arroyo slider.

Events like this fuel the fire for the fans with the win or die atmosphere that the two teams bring to the table.

In two Yankees fans faces, Craig Haley yelled "Whoooo" at the top of his lungs on Sunday night after the Red Sox blasted a club record of four home runs in a row.

ILLUSTRATION BY JACQUELINE BORELLI
Red Sox fans across campus gloat over the recent sweep of the Yankees.

The Sox capped off a three game sweep of the Bronx Bombers at Fenway Park, which marked the first time this feat has been accomplished since 1990.

"We have to hear them talk about their 26 World Series championships, but at least they have to shut up for a week," said freshman Taylor McCarthy, who says he loves the New York Mets and hates the Yankees.

Castleton is not the only school where the rivalry resides.

"People don't understand this really isn't a joke to me. I honestly hate, hate, hate the Yankees and their fans," said Norwich University junior Jesse Martin.

The pounding the Yankees took this weekend has surely added to trash talking by all the Red Sox fans.

One thing is for sure: Yankees fans will have to wait to seek revenge on the beating they took this past weekend.

The rivalry continues this weekend when the Sox travel to the house that Ruth built in hopes of another sweep of their number one nemesis.

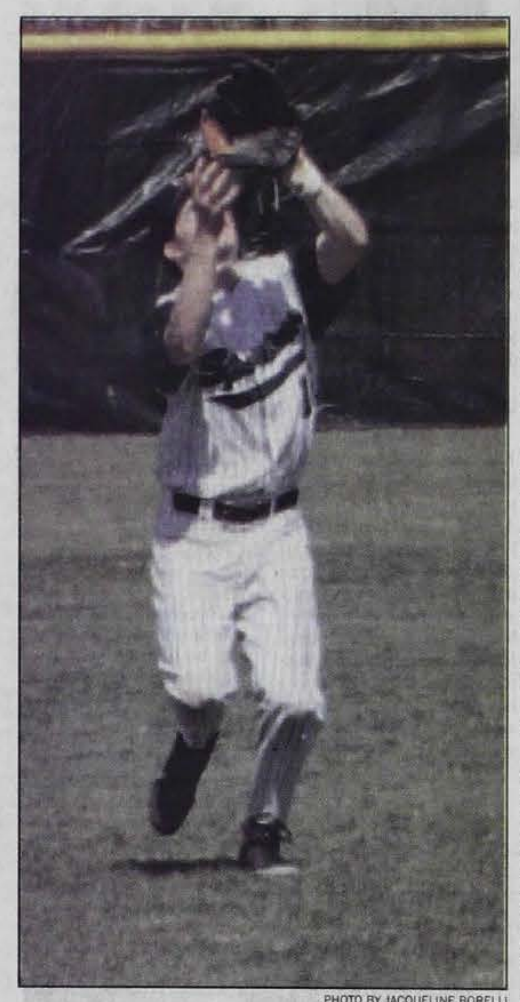


PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI
Jon Handy goes after a fly ball in shallow left field.

Baseball team's win streak extends to 4

Baseball

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

With the temperature getting warmer, the sun is beginning to shine on the Spartan ballplayers.

Castleton hosted a pair of doubleheaders this past weekend and looked to maintain its recent winning ways.

Thomas College was the Spartans' first foe and victim to a complete outing from starter Jeremy Gilchris, who gave up eight hits, two runs and struck out three in an 8-2 win.

Senior outfielder Tim Zorio went 3-for-3 with an RBI, while Eric Anderson had a pair of hits and knocked in two runs.

The nightcap, however, produced an exciting finish as the Spartans were trailing 5-4 in the bottom of the seventh inning. After Travis Bass was hit by a pitch and a base hit from Phil Puleo, catcher Ryan Bouck hit a two-out double to knock in both runs and win the game for the Spartans 6-5.

Rob Turner got the win in relief, and Puleo led the offensive charge with a 3-for-4 performance.

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI
Jeremy Gilchris delivers a pitch Saturday against Thomas College.

Carrying the momentum into Sunday, the Spartans met conference foe Maine-Farmington.

In game one, freshman pitcher Ken Cook squandered only four hits en route to a complete game victory over the Beavers 5-1. Behind run-producing singles from Puleo, Billy Bruneau and Jon Handy in the middle innings, Castleton stayed out in front and supported Cook's outing.

The finale included a wild first inning in which the Spartans gave up two runs in the top, before scoring 11 runs on eight hits against three Farmington pitchers in the bottom half of the inning. Junior centerfielder, Chris Ragis, pounded a shot out of the park to cap the offensive explosion.

Craig Borgen, while giving up 13 hits and eight runs in five innings, received the 13-8 win for Castleton. Bass went 4-for-4 with three runs, and Puleo went 3-for-4 to go along with five RBIs.

Castleton, under ninth-year head coach Ted Shipley, improved to 15-9 with a conference record of 6-1. The Spartans hit the road to play Plymouth State today in a non-league game, followed by hosting a conference meeting with Lyndon State tomorrow.

Softball team still in the hunt for home advantage

Softball

By Shannon Scirla
Spartan Staff

With playoffs right around the corner, the temperature around Castleton State College isn't the only thing heating up these days.

The softball team has caught fire - winning eight out of their last nine games. The Spartans capped off the weekend by sweeping North Atlantic Conference rivals, Lesley and Bay Path.

"We managed to pull through a tough weekend against some good teams," said freshman catcher Jennifer Longley.

After opening the season with a disappointing 2-6 record the Spartans have fought all the way back to a 9-7 record and are 7-3 against NAC teams.

Longley agrees that getting outside has played a huge role in picking up some critical wins along the backstretch of the season.

Sunday's game against Bay Path came inches away from breaking up the Spartans two game winning streak before Castleton prevailed in extra innings 5-4. In the second game, the Spartans pounded Bay Path 6-0 completing an undefeated weekend and putting Castleton softball back in the race in the NAC.

"We got our bats together at the right time, but it was a long weekend," Longley said Sunday night after watching her team put together the most impressive weekend by any Castleton team.

The Spartans will see arch rival Johnson State College next, who will come to Castleton for a conference match up as the Spartans try to extend their win streak to five games.

"We have been working hard as a team, and getting our bats together has made the difference," said Longley.

Because of the Spartans slow start they still find themselves in the middle of the pack among conference teams but look to become one of the elite when the playoffs start on March 1. The Spartans are still in the hunt for home field advantage.

Mens' team drops conference game; Womens' team ranks 4th in NEWLA

Lacrosse

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

The men's lacrosse team bounced back Sunday from a tough loss the previous day to defeat Thomas College 27-2.

Perfect in the North Atlantic Conference going into Saturday's match-up with rival Mount Ida, the Spartans dropped their first conference game to the also undefeated Mustangs 11-10. The defending champions kept Castleton at bay for the final three minutes after Brett Conley scored the game winner.

The Spartans ended the first quarter ahead 3-0, but Mount Ida came out in the second with three straight goals. Two more goals by each team left the squads tied 5-5 going into the half.

The Mustangs took a one-goal lead in the third quarter but Matt VanDerKar answered with career goal number 100 to even the game. Back-and-forth action continued throughout the last two quarters with neither team gaining a distinct advantage.

Trailing 10-9 in the fourth, VanDerKar tied the game with 4:13 remaining. However, Conley scored the game winner one minute later.

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE BORELLI
DeeDee Schroeder attempts to block a pass by a Worcester State player.

Jake Rick led the Spartans with three goals while VanDerKar and Robbie Scanlon each contributed two. Coach David Wiezalis' squad (5-1, 6-4) hosts Johnson State today in its final regular season conference game.

Women's lacrosse

The Spartan women also came back Sunday to defeat Thomas College after a 15-5 loss to Worcester State the day before. Castleton improved to 4-2 in the New England Women's Lacrosse Alliance (NEWLA) and 5-4 overall with the 17-3 victory.

Coach Tammy Landon's squad went into halftime with an 8-2 lead, out shooting the Terriers 37-6.

Nicole Bouchard led the Spartans with three goals and three assists. Nicole Adams and Kristin Mullholand also had three goals. Francesca Mazzola earned the win in the cage with three saves.

The Spartans, who rank fourth in NEWLA standings, host Keene State Thursday in their final regular season game.

Sports Column

Congrats Zach, but Tiger is cool

Congratulations to Zach Johnson for winning the 2007 Masters. It was a gritty performance under the toughest of conditions on golf's grandest stage. Johnson held off the game's elite and deserves the utmost respect. And I just gave him his due.

It's been a couple of weeks and I've had a chance to let it sink in. I'll admit, my initial reaction to Johnson winning The Masters was: So What. Outside of the young man's family and friends, nobody who tuned in to the final round was watching to see Zach Johnson snatch victory in an escape from the depths of obscurity. There is one man we tuned in to watch win. I turned on the TV knowing that Tiger Woods was going to win. I was wrong.

What do I know?

I know that Tiger Woods is the single most marketable, influential and recognizable athlete in the history of the world. Period. He is in pursuit of Jack Nicklaus, and the question is not if he will catch the Golden Bear, but when. Period. And in our current "I want it now" society, the sooner that he gets there the better.

We live in a country that celebrates mediocrity, and worships perfection. And Eldrick is pretty darn close to perfect. Despite what he shows day in and out, golf is not easy. Now, there's been a lot of talk in the media about the cover of Sports Illustrated that followed Johnson's victory at Augusta. The cover showcased Woods breaking his shaft on a tree while laying up on Augusta's Par 5 13th hole. The question was: "Why not Zach?"

The answer.

It is not "Golf" Illustrated. It is a magazine intended for fans of sports. Not golf. They are trying to sell copies of their magazine, and what better way to do so than to put the Golden Calf of the world of sports on the cover. A casual sports fan would walk by the news stand and see some guy that they have never seen before on the cover and just move on.

I'm sorry Zach. Not to take anything away from your life changing experience, but America just doesn't care.

Twenty years from now nobody will remember that you won the 2007 Masters. What they will remember is that Tiger Woods hit his second shot into the water on 15 during the final round and fell a couple of shots shy of the winner.

What America will remember is that Tiger passed Nicklaus' record of 18 major championships x amount of years after that aberration.

Tiger Woods will win at least one major this year. That means he will end the season at least 13 and be only 5 away from Jack.

Woods, with his monumental victory in the 1997 Masters, opened doors for minorities across the globe. Because of him it is no longer a peculiar occurrence for someone of color to be seen on a golf course.

Youths across the world have lost their basketballs and fumbled their footballs in exchange for what once was a stupid stick utilized for smacking a stupid ball.

Golf is cool.

Tiger Woods is cool.

The SPARTAN

Castleton State College student newspaper
WEDNESDAY, May 9, 2007

LA screenwriter teaches for the day

Aaron Peters

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

Coming from sunny Los Angeles, Aaron Peters departed from his busy schedule of writing for TV, and came to Castleton to talk to a handful of students who are studying what he does for a living, scriptwriting. He walks into the Script Writing Advanced class with professor Roy Vestrich, ready to take over his job - at least for the day.

Peters brings a bright smile and is full of excited energy, and by the middle of the class the students are just as excited hearing what Peters has to say.

Peters is a scriptwriter who has worked on various shows including "The Tom Green Show", "The Simple life", and "My Big Fat Greek Life". He described his career as "a great occupation."

The reason why he wanted to be a scriptwriter was because while he interned on the "Conan O'Brien Show", he noticed how much fun the scriptwriters had, just sitting around eating and trying to make each other laugh.

He pursued his interest and got a job on "Mad TV" as a writer's assistant. From there he was able to get a taste of all the departments of a TV show and met his future writing partner.

When he got a writing partner his career started to go in new directions. He said, "Writing stories together is more appealing." He discussed with the class how much better it is to write with a partner because you are able to bounce ideas off of each other and really get the creative juices flowing.

As he talked about his experiences of writing for what he calls the "big business", the students were engaged with questions that they tested Peters with. The questions ranged from how he gets his ideas for shows and how he pitches his ideas, to questions about the studios. While Peters kept the class engaged with his work, the students kept him entertained with their ideas.

The students also got to share with Peters their own ideas of scripts they had thought of. They first broke off into groups to come up with an idea for a new TV show featuring Jay-Z and they had to pitch it to "the studio", which Peters played the role of.

The room was full of laughter and high spirits during and after their brainstorming. The fun had just started when the young scriptwriters pitched their ideas to Peters. Right off from the first group the room was full of exuberant energy with everyone sharing laughs with Peters.

After he had the students involved in his TV show activity, one of the students shared her script with the class and Peters. Once a couple of students were assigned parts to read, Peters' entertainment began.

The cleverly written script and the enthusiastic acting overwhelmed Peters with laughter. He said the script had a very clear storyline and was entertaining to listen to.

After the class was over, it was obviously that everyone had a fun time. The students left the room, jolly with delight and Peters, still with a bright smile and still full of great enthusiasm, talked to the students as they left.

PHOTOS BY MATT SARGENT
Students gather at the amphitheater to listen to a speak out about school-related violence, proposed by Yvette Furnia whose friend was killed in the Virginia Tech shooting.

Bonding in the wake of violence

A memorial is held for those killed in the VT shooting

By Dawson Raspuzzi
Spartan Editor

"Oh no, the wind blew my candle out," a student said as she walked through campus. Quickly, two other students offered her a light off of their own candle.

Then it happened again, and again. Every time a person's candle went out, another student stopped to offer their flame.

With the wind gusting through campus, approximately 30 Castleton students and faculty members somberly walked together on April 30.

They gathered to remember the 33 Virginia Tech students and faculty who were killed by a classmate on April 16. The memorial, which began at 8 p.m. at the amphitheatre, was put together by students Donna Sims and Yvette Furnia.

Upon arrival, people were given a lit candle in a paper cup along with a maroon and orange ribbon to represent Virginia Tech's school colors. Sims then opened the event off by saying how important she thought it was to remember the deceased students and faculty.

The attendees then walked from the amphitheatre through the residential side of campus, crossed South St. and continued through the other side of campus down Seminary St., before turning down Main St. and heading back where they started.

Sims said she wanted to host a memorial because she didn't feel like anyone was doing anything about the situation. Simms talked to faculty members and they decided to hold an open forum on April 20 about what could be done.

"Yvette had the idea of doing the march and speak out and I really wanted a candlelight vigil and moment of silence. That was the best way I felt something could be done," Sims said in an interview.

After people took their seats around the amphitheatre, Furnia spoke to the group, saying, "It was my idea to have a speak-out because I wanted to speak out."

Furnia went on to talk about the symbolism she saw in the candles.

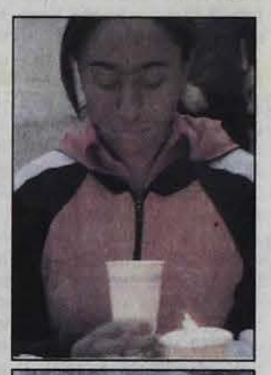
"The wind was blowing people's candles out and we stopped as a group and kept relighting them. The flame symbolized the students who were killed, relighting them showed we are keeping these people in our memory," Furnia said.

Furnia went on to say that she was a friend of one of the students who was killed. On April 17, Furnia checked her friend's Facebook page and saw people's messages asking where she was and if she was OK. After a busy day that Furnia hadn't had much time to think about what had happened, it was then that it really sunk in that it was real.

"I had nightmares and couldn't sleep. I got up at 6 and checked her Facebook page and saw R.I.P.," Furnia said.

"I think it had to do with hate," Furnia said as her voice cracked and tears began to roll

Please see **VT** *PAGE 6*



PHOTOS BY MATT SARGENT
Students particpate in the memorial march.

Students SPARC event calling for peace

By Jacqueline Borelli and Jenn Manning
Spartan Staff

Music and the smell of food lingered through Castleton Thursday as students gathered for peace as part of SPARC-Fest.

SPARC stands for Student Peace Alliance in Rutland County and the event was held to promote peace and justice.

Mitch Wenz, a senior, who helped organize the event, called it a success.

"The purpose was to try and get students to be active and get involved in this community, said Wenz.

While some students danced, others played Hacky-sack, hoola-hooped or chatted about issues affecting the United States. Tables piled with brochures helped inform students about issues surrounding the war in Iraq including the cost of the war and history of U.S. imperialism.

PHOTOS BY BETH PANTZER
Matt Kimbell and Ariel Delaney act out the puppet show as JohnPovey narrates.

Beth Donovan, a senior at Green Mountain, helped organize this event and another at her college.

Donovan said that Green Mountain's concert had music, speakers, t-shirts, and buttons to hand out to attendees.

She too explained how the event was to promote an overall message of peace and justice.

"We want to get out of this war and not start another war in Iran," said Donovan as she listened to the tunes of the jam band Twiddle, comprised of CSC students.

Donovan really enjoyed the spirit of Castleton. She was highly impressed with the pamphlets and how everyone was having a good time.

One spectator, senior Emily Bond, came down to hear the music and said she thinks the school should organize more events like this one.

"Small numbers can still have a big impact," said Bond.

Bond said she believes strongly in peace and feels countries shouldn't be occupying other countries. We shouldn't fill our ears with hate, but with music, Bond said.

John Povey, a student at Fair Haven Union High School, was the narrator for the puppet play Snow White and the Four Dwarfs.

Povey explained that the play portrayed a message of awareness about social and racial issues.

Povey said he believes the puppet show further raised awareness and only added to the already successful event.

Wenz said he hopes more peace awareness events will follow. He said it's important for students to be aware and knowledgeable about the war and about peace.

"The weather, the band, the people, everything worked out great," he said.

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Question and answer withe the Castleton police cheif.

castleton-spartan.com

Check out castletonspartan.com for more SPARCfest pictures.

Advice from senior: Don't fall in

I always thought I'd be excited to leave college. Very excited.

Either that or I'd be pissed and want to stay forever, wallowing in this short four-year limbo of thinking about the rest of your life, but being able to ignore it for a good chunk of the time.

I'm not really excited or upset. I haven't really decided what I am, and I'm not even sure that there's any kind of word that would describe the emotion I've been feeling lately. Foggy is the best word I can use that accurately sums up the way I'm feeling. Like nothing that's going on is really happening, important or the intoxicants that seems to have seeped their way into my life as I get closer to graduation are taking over. Either way, it isn't pleasant, nor is it all that unpleasant. It just is. My life has taken a turn for the "now" and I can't say whether I like it or not. I feel contradictory.

Probably the most jarring thing is that there are dozens of crazy things that my grandparents and parents used to say that sound less crazy as I get older. I'm realizing that all the old sayings that nearly everyone over the age of 30 threw at me while I was growing up ("Enjoy it now, you won't be young long," or "You think THIS year went by fast, wait until you're older") are said because they're some of the few truths that are passed down generation by generation. I've also realized other things…

… That yes you can be regretful, nostalgic, proud, disappointed, sad, giddy, nervous, nauseous, excited and defeated, all at the same time.

… And that you can miss your friends and the place you've lived for four years before they're even gone (because thinking about not seeing them is almost worse than not having them around) while, at the same time, being happier than you've ever been to leave it all behind.

I've also learned that it's OK to ramble, which I've taken full advantage of through this piece, to the point that I'm not even sure that it will fit into the allotted column space. But that's OK, it's my last editorial and I couldn't care less. All our lives we've been told not to follow the group, all the while being fit into our neat little molds so as not to rub anyone the wrong way and I figure since I'm graduating right after this column goes to print, I have nothing to lose.

My work for this publication is coming to a close and I can think of no better way to go out than a "column" written while drinking and thinking about what's next.

Charles Bukowski said that "To do a dull thing with style-now THAT'S what I call art." I can't think of many things duller than modern-day journalism, and the fact that Bukowski also thought that your writing became boring once your parents liked it is equally important ('cause my mom will probably hate this).For a journalist to come close to despising journalism is a strange thing, but at the same time appropriate considering that today, most journalism is trash.

People have walked away from the types of journalism that mean something (in so much as H.S. Thompson meant something, or Tom Wolfe) and getting the story out now takes precedence over taking journalism to the level of some sort of art. Journalism has long been transformed into something more closely resembling the work of a factory technician or a riveter. New journalism (which tried to mix journalism with literary elements) is almost dead and those that gave birth to it are slowing dying off. Very little makes me sadder.

While many of my fellow journalism students may disagree with me, as will, no doubt, my editor, journalism as we know it is dead. It's not that no one cares, but the things written and cared about are pointless. CNN and the New York Times, both news dynamos, consistently drop the ball and write about the supposed sex-scandal in D.C. in an attempt to distract the nation from its real problems, whether consciously or not, instead of writing about a war that, despite all of our arguments and debate, is now about people dying, which no one seems to get. The 7-year-old who was just blown up by a van filled with explosives doesn't care whether or not you agree with this administration or not. He's dead, like tens of thousands of Iraqi's, for no reason other than pride, and media critics sit around and write about how President Bush stood in front of a victory banner four years ago.

Yeah, he was wrong but writing about how sweet it is that he messed up is almost as damaging. When a country cares more about the strength, weaknesses, wrongs and rights of both their president and their own arguments over the lives of their fellow man, something has gone horribly wrong.

I wanted this final column to be filled with some sort of advice to incoming freshman and current freshmen and sophomores but I don't think I can give any better advice than to believe what you want to believe and go against anything that directly opposes what makes sense to you. Whenever anyone tells you you're wrong, don't believe them. When someone tells you you're right, don't believe them either, they probably just want you to like them. Do whatever feels right at the time and believe that things can be better and never fail to be idealistic. It may not get you many places and it may make people think you're too set in your beliefs, but to do anything less than what you fully and truly believe is right for you is to die, and too many people around you are dead already for you to lay down and give up now.

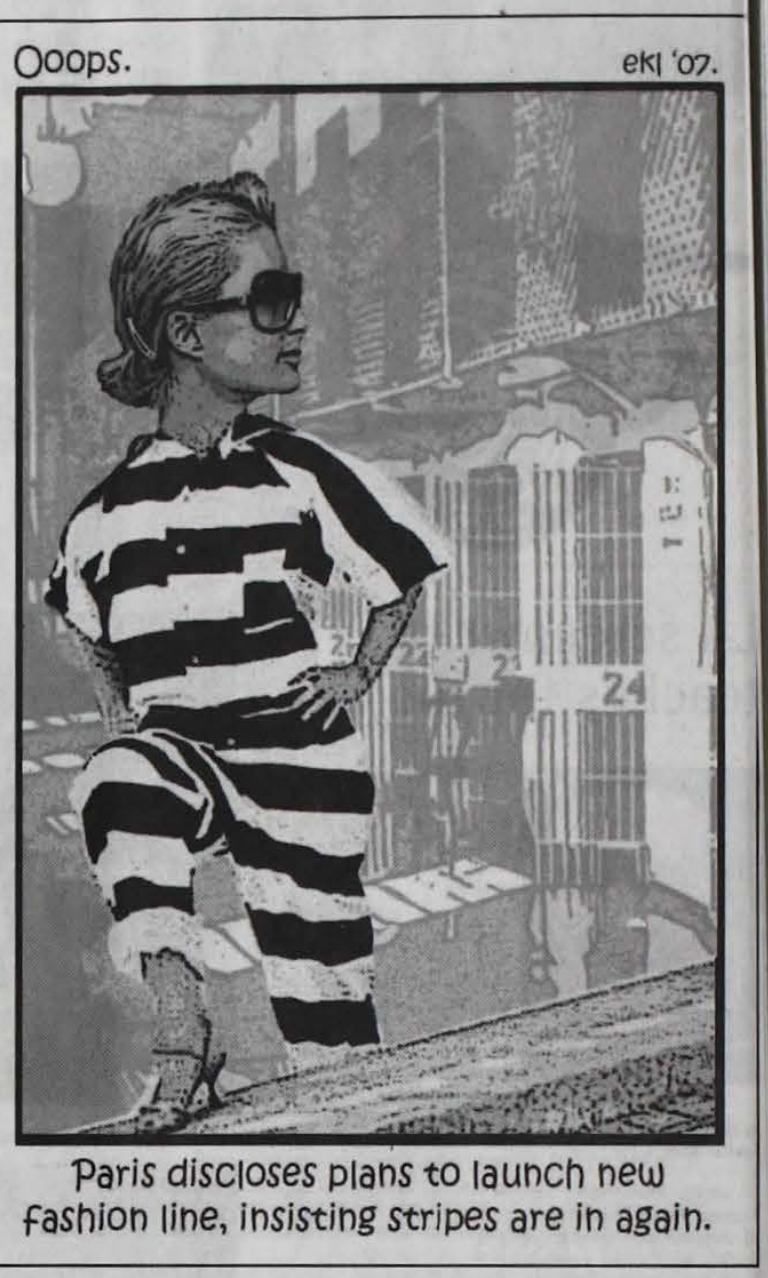
You're the future of yourself, your state, your country and your world and too many people have done what's expected of them just to get by or make people like them. The inherent problem with things is that people do what they think other people think is right instead of doing what they know is right.

So, graduates of CSC, 2007, congratulations. My advice has been given and it's probably not good. That, too, is OK, and so is whatever you're doing after you leave here. Whatever people tell you, do what you want and know is right for you. And if you don't know what's right, do what you think is right and enjoy it. If nothing else, you'll be happier knowing that what you did made you happy, at least for a little while, and everything you're "supposed to do" is a waste of time. What a waste of a life, work. Which makes it both sad and liberating to know that I'm leaving Castleton for a world that I wake up to every day wanting to change, a world that is made all the better by the few incredible people that I've been lucky enough to not only have met, but made a part of my life.

No names here, if you think you're one of them, you are. My only hope is to have done something in the next 30 years that I'm proud of and to have not become a part of everything I'm ashamed of.

So, graduates of 2007, do what you want and don't fall in. Like what you like, love who you love, stay away from what you hate and do what you need to. We're no more than what we think we are so shape yourself accordingly. Thanks for reading and hopefully we'll meet again soon. In print, if nowhere else.

-Bradford Waterhouse



Ain't no town like B-Town

Christ I love Burlington.

I love walking down the rust-brick-laden Church Street, amidst the sounds of local street performers bleeding out their souls through their acoustic guitars. I love the way Nectars drowns their signature french fries in the most thick and orgasmicly awesome gravy I've ever shoved down my food hole. And I love walking along the waterfront, watching the sunset mix a watercolor cocktail of pinks and oranges above Lake Champlain.

Burlington is my Energizer Bunny, so-to-speak. When I feel myself down and drained from the regular day-to-day shambles of life, you can pretty much bet that I'll be in B-Town when the weekend rolls around.

I rambled on up to Burlington this past Saturday to get away from all of you-and to see freakin' Venom in "Spider-Man 3."

Now while I could easily go into great detail regarding my complete and utter disappointment with that film- specifically the often emo-esque Tobey Maguire- I'll save that rant for whoever is likely to review it in this issue.

No, I chose to write about Burlington for this issue because it's the perfect college town. I figured it might be interesting to do a cultural comparison, see how Castleton stacks up against the Muhammad Ali of Vermont college towns.

Let's start with the most common student complaint at Castleton: nightlife. Burlington has numerous bars, clubs, restaurants, and nightly activities- all within walking distance of UVM and Champlain College-- that would keep any college student entertained well into the wee hours of the morning.

Castleton has cow tipping and The Dog (which is actually in Hydeville). I mean there's nothing better than getting trashed on fifty-cent drafts and tormenting farm animals, is there?

What about other social gathering spots? B-Town has Church Street, the waterfront, University Mall, and Taft Corners in Williston-all within a ten-minute drive. Castleton's closest mall is twenty miles away in Rutland; a city whose "cultural" downtown area revolves around a Wal-Mart and a Price Chopper.

What's the difference between Rutland and a cup of yogurt? Yogurt has an active culture. Bet you've heard that one before.

But hey, Rutland's also got Denny's. And how many of you can honestly say you've never made a 3 a.m. trip to Denny's while reeking of booze, sweat, and sweet leaf? There's a reason they give you extra pancakes with everything, you know.

I could go on, but considering that space on this page is often restrictive (and expensive), I figured it was time for me to arrive at my point.

My point is this: I love Castleton. I really do. I like not having to deal with thousands of horrible drivers, overly snooty liberals, and six-dollar coffees on a daily basis. Burlington can be a hectic place and I don't know if I'd enjoy living up there as much as I enjoy visiting. I like my peace and quiet, as well as the personal relationships I've formed with many amazing professors and peers.

And if Dave Wolk were to run for U.S. President next year, I might consider taking that blue Barack Obama '08 sticker off my car and changing my vote.

Then again, I LOVE Burlington. I mean come on. They've got a Spencer's and a Taco Bell in the same damn mall. THE SAME MALL! That's probably the most bloody brilliant marketing scheme ever. Never mind the fact that Burlington hosts some of the best colleges in the state.

Castleton is the "small college with a big heart." That's part of what drew me here. But there are other elements that Castleton is lacking that may potentially draw me elsewhere.

Many of my friends have gone on to "bigger and better things," while others are seriously considering doing the same. I feel that may be the case for numerous students who may be simply using Castleton as a "starter school" until they can transfer somewhere "better."

Maybe I'm getting ahead of myself. Maybe the reason students come to Castleton in the first place is because they don't want to deal with the "typical" college scene. Maybe they like their "peace and quiet." Or maybe it's because of other reasons like tuition prices and acceptance standards. Lord knows that's why I'm here.

That being said, I've really got to wonder how much longer I can stick around here. If it wasn't for the professors, I doubt I'd even make an issue out of it. Instead of a Spartan, I'd be a Catamount or a Purple Night or a Beaver-living like a god in B-town no questions asked.

But I'm not. I'm here at Castleton. In my peace and quiet. Free from the hectic life of Burlington. Free from a gazillion different groovy experiences in Vermont's most kick-ass city. But things could change. After all…

Burlington has Taco Bell.

-Terry Badman

Letter: Support Choose Responsibility

Dear Friend,

I am writing to introduce you to a new non-profit organization, Choose Responsibility, established to initiate an informed and dispassionate public debate over the effects of the 21-year-old drinking age.

Today our website www.chooseresponsibility.org goes live. Check it out. Tell us what you think. Consider lending your name, your time, and your expertise to this effort.

We are still small and struggling, but we have made progress. Perhaps you heard about us in last week's Chronicle of Higher Education, or even closer to home, in your own mailbox. There is more on the way--US News and World Report, NPR, Parade Magazine. We seek only the opportunity to educate the public, and we are confident that given such an opportunity America's voice will be heard from the grassroots.

Help us help young adults to choose responsibility.

Sincerely,

John M. McCardell, Jr.

Director, Choose Responsibility

President Emeritus, Middlebury College

The SPARTAN
CASTLETON STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Mitch Wenz
Mike Weins

Students say clubs build bonds, helps beat boredom

By Courtney Gilman
Spartan Contributor

"I'm bored" and "There's nothing to do" are all too familiar phrases said by students around the Castleton State College campus.

In actuality, there is plenty to do.

"There are approximately 40 active clubs on campus," said Melissa Paradee, who works with the Student Association.

"Clubs are very important. Students are more likely to come back to Castleton because of the connections they find through clubs," said Paradee, who works as closely or distant with each club as each wants her to.

Students like Laura Olson, say clubs really help establish bonds.

"You can't help but become close with the other people in the club," Olson said.

Olson is president of the 1 in 10 club and is a part of an a cappella group on campus called Final Thought. She agrees with Paradee that clubs are important on campus.

"Everyone needs their college to be more than just education and clubs are a good outlet," Olson said.

Being president of one of her clubs, Olson gets to use her management skills that wouldn't be put forth anywhere else.

Some clubs are more education oriented, such as the Woman's Issues group, and others are more career driven, like the Criminal Justice club or the Student Nurses Association.

Do you like the Spanish language and culture, but are not a Spanish major?

You can still join the Spanish club.

All of the active clubs on campus are open to all Castleton students.

For commuters to the school, "being involved in a club could be the best thing to bridge the gap between them and the on-campus students," said Olson, who paused to think if she had any commuters in her clubs. "It's not something you think about when you're all together."

If you aren't interested in what the Castleton clubs have to offer, starting a club of your own is an easy process. A constitution needs to be created and it "doesn't take that long" insists Paradee.

You can find club constitution paperwork in the Student Association office in the Campus Center. For a list of what clubs are available, you can go to the Castleton homepage, click on "Activities" and then to go "Clubs and Activities."

"Anyone on campus can find a club. Club members are always welcoming, Olson said.

Welcome to the Coffee Cottage

By Tony Trombetta
Spartan Staff

The sound of flipping newspaper pages can be heard very faintly beneath the thunderous clap of a grinding blender. Faces are hidden behind various sorts of reading materials.

Faster and faster now, the blender gets close to the finish line. The sound has reached its end and The Cranberries coming from the radio can now be distinguished clearly.

Another smiling customer receives her smoothie.

At Castleton's Coffee Cottage there is something for everyone. Not just one flavor of Green Mountain Coffee, six or seven.

Jessica Palmer, a senior at CSC, prefers hazelnut.

"I'm here a lot," she said. "I come in mostly because it's quiet and comfortable."

That's precisely what President David Wolk intended when he came to the college in the Fall of 2001. He walked into the building and saw a wasted room filled with old computers.

"It was apparent we needed a casual place for faculty and students to interact," Wolk said.

Chrispin White is Castleton's director of community service and internships. His office is located right above the Coffee Cottage, so he stops in just about every day.

And why shouldn't he? He, along with President Wolk, was on the committee that created the Cottage.

"The vision was to create something on this side of campus to increase interaction of students, staff and administrators," said White, armed with a roast beef sandwich and a yellow Sobe. "What we've created has worked well."

PHOTOS BY MATT SARGENT

Jen Manning gets a coffee and chats with Coffee Cottage employee Kari Ball.

Meet Darla, Trena and Kari

Regardless of who walks through that door, the ladies working are armed with a smile.

"The women are wonderful," Wolk said.

The staples are Darla Patch, Trena Kudela and Kari Ball. All three enjoy their work environment very much.

"It's a homey atmosphere," Patch said. "I enjoy seeing the faculty and students every day."

Patch, who is going into her twentieth year with the college, works in the Coffee Cottage rather than in the admissions office. But without admission statistics, she knows Castleton has "a lot of commuter students."

One such commuter calling the Coffee Cottage her home base on campus is Teresa Messenger. She drives from Weybridge, near Middlebury. So she spends six hours a week with Darla, Trena and Kari.

"They're the best," Messenger said. "I bring my kids in and they talk to the ladies."

If the ladies of the Coffee Cottage are the best thing in that little white building, the Heart Thrive Vegan Energy Bars just might be the worst.

"They're gross," Messenger said. "Give me a chocolate chip cookie any day. Those things taste like sawdust."

Laughter immediately emerges above the loud blender.

"Dog biscuits," Kudela said.

How about smoothie?

As spring heats up, the demand for smoothies coincides with the rising mercury on the thermometer. And the ladies are ready for it.

"When the weather starts getting warmer the smoothies start flying out the door," Ball said.

The consensus is that anything with raspberry in it is most popular among the Coffee Cottage's loyal clientele.

When asked if they ever got a free smoothie while working, a rye smile broke out across the face of Kudela. She took one quick gulp of her purple icy beverage and held it up.

"Yeah," she said. "Every time we make a mistake."

Trekking across the U.S to CSC

Students from outside northeast tell why they came to Vermont

By Tony Trombetta
Spartan Staff

Castleton State College is just that, a State College. Most across the United States would probably think of "The Rock" strictly as an island prison off the shore of San Francisco.

But CSC's student demographics support it too being nicknamed 'The Rock."

According to Fall 2006 official enrollment statistics, there are only 56 graduate and undergraduate students at Castleton from states outside the northeast.

Let's meet a few of them, shall we?

Heather Patterson

Heather Patterson is an 18-year-old freshman from California. Like a majority of the non-locals, Patterson found CSC with "one of those college search engines."

A skier, Patterson was also recruited by ski coach Chris Eder. She credits her immediate connection with Eder and members of the ski team for contributing to her decision to attend Castleton.

"It was a lot of fun when I visited Castleton," she said. "I got along really well with everyone on the team and that made me feel better about coming all the way to Vermont."

Obviously, Patterson experienced a climate change.

"It gets cold at home, but it is a different type of cold," she said.

But the change in the temperature wasn't the full extent of her not so toasty experience.

"I experienced frostbite for the first time," she said. "That was interesting."

Joseph Wissler

Joseph Wissler is 20 years-old.

Wissler has lived in California, New Mexico, Ohio, Colorado, Alabama, Virginia and Massachusetts since his father is an officer in the Air Force.

Now he attends Castleton.

According to Wissler, many assume that all of the bouncing around has been a negative in his life. Not so.

"Not living in one place for more than four years has been an adventure," Wissler said. "I have seen just about every part of the U.S. and have not regretted it one bit."

Wissler, who will graduate from Castleton, will not be the first in his family to do so.

His grandfather is also a Castleton alumnus.

Megan Morton

Megan Morton is a natural sciences major from Florida. Like Patterson, Morton utilized an Internet search engine to find CSC.

After filling in the criteria, she came up with Castleton and Johnson State College.

"I visited both and fell in love with Castleton for its personality and laid back atmosphere," Morton said.

Her current advisor, Mark Fox, was her first contact on campus.

"Fox plays a major role in why I come here," Morton said. "Teachers down to Earth like him are a rare find."

Morton considers Fox a "mentor."

Morton also credits Castleton's science labs with getting her attention.

"As nice as Johnson's were, they were very sterile in comparison to Castleton's," Morton said.

Christine Sadler

Christine Sadler is a second year Master's student working on her M.A. in forensic psychology. She is 25-years-old and from Silver Spring, Maryland.

Like Morton and Patterson, Sadler found Castleton on the Internet.

"I had never heard of CSC before," she said. "Barring one episode of Mystery Science Theater 3000."

She refers to Castleton's forensic psychology program as "world-renowned."

A self-proclaimed "flatlander," Sadler's home in southern Maryland was only a short subway ride from the nation's capital.

"I've heard fellow students complain that Castleton is in the middle of nowhere," Sadler said. "And I do not disagree."

Regardless of where they may come from, they are now in Vermont and stereotypes about Vermont do exist.

Sadler, when asked how she mirrors the Vermont population, thought she did quite nicely.

"I am Caucasian, I have relatively liberal views on most things and I consider Subarus practical, reliable vehicles," she said.

Historical Association speaks out against the war in Iraq

By Ben Fox
Spartan Contributor

History has recently been made. In an unprecedented step, a group of professional academics has come out in open opposition to the war in Iraq.

The American Historical Association, or AHA, announced a resolution March 12 denouncing the ongoing U.S. involvement in Iraq and "condemning government violations of civil liberties linked to the war in Iraq," according to their press release.

"The outcome indicates the deep disquiet scholars feel about damage done to scholarly inquiry and democratic processes by this misbegotten war," said Alan Dawley, professor of history at the College of New Jersey and a former winner of the Bancroft Prize. He was also the initial mover of the resolution.

This kind of opposition to U.S. foreign policy has never come about in AHA history, some 118 years, according to current members. Never before has an entire group of academics, for that matter, spoken out publicly against a war, even during the unpopular Vietnam War. This could mark a turning point in one of the most unpopular wars in American history, or it could just as well end up another distant dissenting voice in a closed eardrum.

"Nothing's going to change because of this," said David Foote, a junior at Castleton State College. "I'm a pessimist and a cynic when it comes to this country."

Dawley, however, has more optimistic hopes for the resolution and its future.

"The American Studies Association has taken a similar stand," he said. "We are urging our colleagues to press their professional bodies for similar action."

"We had gotten free speech resolution passed in 2004 and we knew there was strong objection among scholars to violations of civil liberties," Dawley continued. "We believed it was important to link those to the imperial behavior of the Bush administration ...We drafted a statement that could be supported by members across the political spectrum."

Voting on the resolution was held March 1-9, 2007, and results were announced March 12. It was originally accepted for voting by the Council at the Jan. 6, 2007 annual council meeting in Atlanta. The resolution was originally proposed by members of Historians Against the War, of which Dawley is a member. It's a national network of more than 2,000 scholars on more than 400 campuses. The vote was 1,550 (75.61 percent) in favor and 498 (24.29 percent) opposed.

This is, however, a small portion of AHA members. The represented voting members made up only 14.67 percent of active members.

The resolution included a message to members "to do whatever they can to bring the Iraq War to a speedy conclusion."

Carrie Waara, a history professor at CSC and member of AHA, was excited to discuss the resolution and what it might mean for the anti-war effort. She had supported the resolution on the ballot and was proud to be part of such a groundbreaking event.

"Historians Against the War alerted me to the fact that they were trying to put this on the ballot," she said. "They (HAW) offered a rationale and explained why they thought this was important and I was immediately supportive."

Waara feels that there is a distinctive link between the war in Iraq and the Vietnam War, a key reason she supports the resolution.

"Both wars could only be won by destroying the countries," she said. "Thank God we stopped short of total destruction of Vietnam. I wonder if we will be smart or caring enough to stop short of utterly demolishing Iraq."

"My father was a two-time Vietnam veteran," she went on to say. "Having grown up in the military, it's important for everyone to understand what Ground Zero in a war zone is. Once you grasp the human and physical destruction that war is,

Please see WAR *PAGE 6*

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Joanna Doolan

Last column of the year folks.

That's right, it's time. Time to cram in for finals, pack all the crap you've accumulated the past eight months and time to say good-bye to the people you have seen every day.

When you think about it, it's sort of depressing. I mean, yes, sweet time for summer. No studying, no early morning classes, home cooked food and good friends. I know I'm ready for the summer of my life with all my friends from high school.

But it has also been a whole school year. I have spent practically every day with my friend Talia. And now I have to go weeks without seeing her? Odd how that works. When you come to college it's hard adjusting to not seeing your best friend from back home every day. And you think "This will be hard to get used to."

But everyone adjusts.

Then you go back home and finally get to spend time with those who are still there, and you realize you aren't seeing the person you did get to hang out with every day.

I am ready though. Plans are already being made. There are so many people I need to see. Those who are still back home, those who went off to college and of course my awesome CSC pals.

I have a feeling I won't get anything accomplished this summer, but that's ok with me. I'll prep myself for next year. These last few weeks have been a drain on me and I think we all need some good R and R.

Things couldn't be better though. Besides finals, I'm pretty set. Everything has been seeming to fall into place for me the last week. I just need to make sure I'm all set financially for next year and I can have a good summer.

I actually can't wait for next semester; there are so many things to look forward to. Rooming with Sarah Parker, in the Love Shack. Working for the paper doing layout and anything else I can possibly do. DJ'ing at WIUV. New classes. New job? (I hope so....)

And anything else I get involved with.

I want to be more involved. I always think I have more on my platter than I do. I'm not good under any kind of pressure. I figure I'll have to get over this to be a qualified journalist.

So here are a few things I have learned this year that may help up and coming freshies:

Living on your own, even if you can still go home, is tough. You'll never remember everything you need and keep crawling back to the parentals.

Try to go to bed before 4 a.m. if you have an 8 a.m. class.

Never run out of quarters.

Pizza is the best food ever.

Trance music makes a nice day seem even better.

Make sure to communicate with your roommate via phone/text. Who knows if they are passed out on the couch in the common room or lying in a ditch?

Tile gets dirty far too easily. Own a broom and dust pan, they will be your best friends.

Always make sure you don't let your work overcome your life. College is a lot more fun if you do your work, but actually have fun too.

The people you meet in college could be in your life forever.

College beds: NOT comfy. Unless you have someone to share one with.

There are a million other things that I have learned, not just about life, but about myself. Thanks CSC, for a great freshman year. The last freshman year of my life.

See ya around.

Trail tales: Three of the nicest areas right under our noses

By Bradford Waterhouse
Spartan Staff

The woods have always offered a reprieve for me. There are very few things quite like spending an afternoon outdoors, surrounded by sun, forest and noises and smells that sound much more comforting than the roaring of autos on black-top and the white noise of people buzzing constantly in your head.

Writing, meditating, and hanging out with friends are all things done best when on a hike, and few things make you realize how insignificant every thought you have is when you're standing on a peak looking at miles of untouched growth.

While some of the places I frequent aren't graced with nicely marked trails, three of my favorites are: one practically on campus, one less than 15 minutes away, and one a little further. If nothing more, this is simply a short, incomplete guide that will hopefully have you thinking about places to go on the dozens of gorgeous weekends on the way. Man was meant to live with nature and there's nothing like an all-day hike in the woods to remind us of that.

D&H Rail Trail-Castleton

Beginning on South Street (on the right directly after the Ellis parking lot) and winding down in Poultney, the old rail, at least the first few miles, is already a popular spot for Castleton students. Teams frequently use the well-cleared path for conditioning and professors, students and townsfolk alike can be seen in the nicer seasons biking or walking, enjoying the weather and their thoughts.

This was the first place a few of my friends and I began to frequent when I first came to Castleton and it's the only spot from my early years that I still go to multiple times a week. It's the best place around for a good bike ride, and the scenery is varied enough with an abundance of interesting landmarks to keep me coming back.

Once the first few miles have passed, past the opening onto the cross-country trail, past the farm fenced in with horses on the right and cows and bulls on the left, over the bridge crossing Route 30 and onto the next section of trail opens up into a nearly straight shot all the way to Poultney, with the trail picking up again somewhere on the other side of town. I've never tried to find the continuation, if only because the rest of the trail whets my appetite just fine.

All of nature's best features, like cliffs and wetlands, mud-drenched areas frequently flooded out, tranquil brooks and streams, quarries, driveways, farmland and infrequent breaks in the trees just to show off the view, there aren't many places where all the beauty of Vermont is more compact and viewable.

Along with the main trail, offshoots are everywhere -- some minor roads crossing the trail at various places, others harder to find. Exploring every offshoot after you've tired of the main path is worthwhile, as each one boasts at least one sight worth seeing, whether it be a well-worn waterfall hidden deep in the trees or a temporary opening into a field, perfect for hiding out and writing down whatever thoughts you might have.

Easy enough to find, the most common way to get on the trail is in front of the Ellis parking lot, at the start of the tree line. Sand Hill Road also parallels a good chunk of the trail, so take a left on almost any offshoot you find. Chances are you'll get there.

And, if you're lucky, you just might spot our very own John Gillen cruising through the dirt on his ten-speed.

PHOTOS BY BRADFORD WATERHOUSE

Patrick Kittel and Lene Ballard stand at the top of Mt. Zion, enjoying the view over hubbardton battlefield.

Mt. Zion-Castleton

Another spot that's probably familiar to many on campus, the fabled Mt. Zion, is a little farther away, and much more of a climb than any point on the rail trail, and with the much talked about Japanese garden as a sort of happy ending to your hike, it's a good way to spend an afternoon.

The best way to start your climb is to look for the red dot at the beginning of the tree line, right before the second pipe-bridge (you'll know 'em when you see 'em). From here, just follow the red squares every few feet and make your way to the top. While all uphill, the beginning of the climb is easy, taking hikers up through the rocks and slightly marshy area to the much steeper second half of the climb, if you go to the right where the path forks, for an almost-vertical last push to the top. Not difficult, unless you don't like getting your hands dirty, in which case, really, stay in the car.

Also, make your way back through the woods once you get to the top to check out the strange, hermit shelter, made skillfully by someone using only sticks, tree limbs and the side of the mountain.

"Zion is one of the best places to go off campus," said Patrick Kittell, a Castleton second-year senior. "I go there all the time."

The way down is much easier, a slightly-steep path winding down gradually to the bottom and the Japanese garden (which is only worthwhile in the summer months). For a more challenging hike, search around for the yellow square trail, a path that takes you straight across the front of the mountain on a "trail" cut through the rock, making for a more difficult jaunt, still enjoyable for casual hikers and much more fun than the red trail once you've been a few times.

Oh, and the view at the top? More than worth the short climb, especially off to your left when facing Hubbardton Battlefield.

Easy enough to get to: take the left off of Main St. like you were getting on 89, go straight for a few miles until you get to St. John Rd. on the left. Take that down a bit until you come to a small black and white "Hiking" sign with an arrow. Follow the directions from there.

Merck Forest-Rupert, Vt.

If day-long bike rides or 20-minute hikes aren't your thing, take the drive to the Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, a 40-minute ride from campus.

The entirety of the property is a protected piece of land, and also boasts a number of mountains to climb (much more involved climbing than Zion) and miles of trails to get to those mountains. The land is gorgeous, miles of woods and well kept, clean trails.

Some of the trails toward the mountain tops are harder to traverse, and entire climbs can be exhausting. Inexperienced hikers will still enjoy Merck, but be prepared for a workout.

Not only a hiker's delight, Merck is also a self-sustaining farm, with all power to all buildings coming from either wind generators or solar panels, and most employees of the farm live on the grounds. Sheep, cows and enormous pigs roam the land at the entrance to the trails. Internships, split up by seasons, are available to students as well and Merck will work with the school to coordinate credits.

The whole park can't really be explored in a day, so coming back is necessary to really get all this place has to offer and the various trails it holds. If you want to try to see it all, cabins are available for rent on a weekly schedule.

And make sure to try some syrup samples from whoever is working the counter at the visitor's center. The darker the better.

The best part about conquering a trail or mountain is often finding it on your own, so no amount of exploring the area is too much and there are dozens of other, equally worthy paths, trails and hiding spots hidden around campus and the surrounding area. This is a just a starters kit, a few places to go when the homework isn't getting done and it's too nice to sit around inside. Hope you enjoy.

How to graduate in style

Bradford Waterhouse

Smith College down in Northampton, Mass., is a model of how a graduation should be run.

There are multiple student-run traditions, upheld by a good majority of the student body. Events are held, large ones, which all Seniors attend and look forward to. And a week is given between finals and graduation, plenty of time to tie up loose ends, both with jobs and academics, and probably some last-minute partying.

Best of all, a Senior Ball is held where the entire campus center is closed down and high-end food and drinks are served all night long.

Here in Castleton, though, the graduation ceremony seems almost anti-climactic. Yes, there's a picnic during the weekend, the traditional candle-lighting ceremony, and...that's pretty much all.

There are no big graduation parties (none endorsed by the school, anyway), no special traditions to be upheld the week before graduation (aside that candle-lighting ceremony for which a good chunk of people have lost their candles), no banquets, and a Senior Day that consists of a dude playing a guitar in the campus center while the soon-to-be graduates get their caps and gowns. Oh, and we got Frisbees.

Money isn't hard to come by (The SA just spent close to $40,000 on Castlefest, $30,000 of which they just had lying around, waiting to be used). A senior banquet, with drinks for those of age, nice food, a casual-formal-dress request and speeches from the students leaving and some of their professors would go a long way towards building a sense of class-community that is sadly lacking in much of the graduation "activities".

Walking the Dog is a tradition, sure, but it's a student run tradition, one the school has nothing to do with and would certainly never endorse (though our campus seems to be slackening its terrible aversion to alcohol, thanks in no small part to Phil Lamy and his students and their excellent Pub Nights).

Also, why not a week or so to allow students to get their things together, party with their friends, get last minute job-searching done and just chill, something that many students desperately need before their leap into the "real" world?

Having graduation the day after the last finals are taken gives students almost no time to think about the enormous next step they'll be taking in just a few short days.

Giving graduates a week between finals and graduation day isn't a lot of time, but it allows them to hang out with friends, many who might never be seen again, without the pressures of work and finals looming over them.

College graduation is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, an experience people wish for again when they're home with their spouses and kids twenty years down the road. And it should feel like one.

This shouldn't be something we have to get through, but something to look forward to. No school does it perfectly, but some do it better.

There isn't anything inherently bad in the way our graduation is being put on, but that isn't much of a compliment. Graduation shouldn't just be a ceremony, it should be an experience, and one that this year's seniors remember longer than the time it takes to chug through a six-pack.

Ed. Dept. facing overhaul

By Chris Adams
Spartan Contributor

It is no big secret that Castleton State College is in the midst of an upward transformation. From the new state of the art fitness center and dormitories, to the vast improvement of many of the college's athletic teams, Castleton is making great strides toward an incredibly bright future.

As the school year winds down and the college begins to ready itself for the 2007-2008 academic year, there is one change on campus that is sure to be at the center of attention when school resumes in September.

After years of thought and consideration, Castleton has decided to completely restructure its teacher education program in order to meet the goals of the college while at the same time continue to meet state regulations.

This significant change began

Please see **EDUCATION** *PAGE 6*

CSC's accessibility questioned

By Janet Gillett
Spartan Staff

Laura Olson, who hurt her back by slipping on ice, sat just inside her room trying to pull the door open and wheel back at the same time. Failing to open the door herself, she resorted to asking a suitemate for help.

Olson is one of many Castleton State College students who found out that daily routines are hard — if not impossible — when temporarily handicapped.

Although President Dave Wolk and Dean of Administration Bill Allen stated that Castleton is one of the most handicap accessible campuses around, some students have found it difficult to accomplish simple tasks like getting food or going to class.

After breaking both sides of her ankle and being told she couldn't put pressure on her foot, hockey player Jennifer Saitta recently withdrew from her classes because she missed many classes, unable to get to them.

"It took me about half an hour to 45 minutes to get to class," she said. "By the time I did, I was so uncomfortable that it was difficult to concentrate and get into class."

Switching between a wheelchair and crutches, Saitta spent three months unable to walk.

For the most part, Saitta thought Castleton was easy to maneuver around except when it came to getting food. With all the snow on the ground, she was unable to go to Huden and sent her boyfriend to get food from Fireside, using her card.

Janet Perron, who was on crutches after tearing her anterior cruciate ligament and then again after surgery, agrees.

"I pretty much didn't go to eat unless a friend was with me," she said. "I'm sure if I asked for help I would have gotten it though."

Perron said she believes handicap accessibility "is in much need of improvement."

Perron has brought up the need for improvement repeatedly, including at the president's dinner on April 11.

Her sister had planned on attending Castleton upon her high school graduation, but a car accident left her wheelchair bound. She did not attend college, but did visit Janet once and her wheelchair got stuck on a bump in the pavement.

Janet swears that Castleton "would not have been an option" for her sister if she had decided to attend college due to the difficulty of her getting around campus.

Wolk and Allen, however, stick to their belief that Castleton is one of the most handicap-friendly campuses around.

Over the summer, groups with handicap children hold camps at Castleton, including a group of children with multi-

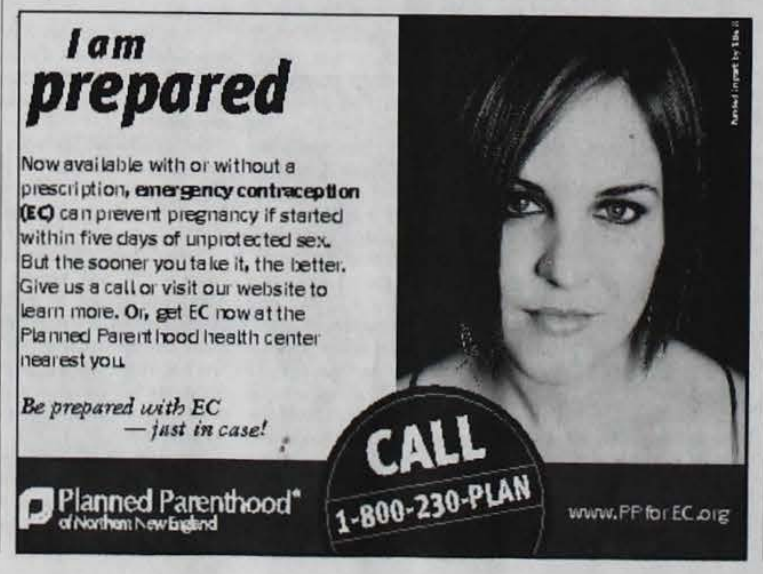
Please see **HANDICAP** *PAGE 6*

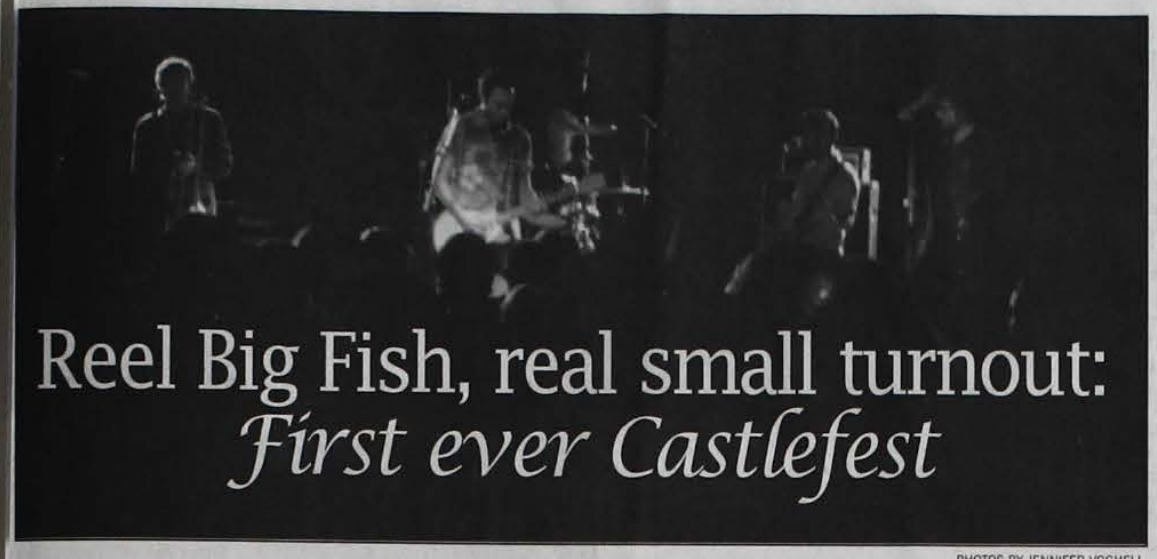
2007 Concert Series Line-Up

The 11th annual Green Summer Concert Series is set to heat up the summer outside the Castleton Chapel at 7 p.m. every Tuesday starting June 5th.

June 5✓	Bluegrass Gospel Project
June 12✓	Doc Scanlon's Rhythm Boys
June 19✓	Kilimanjaro
June 26+	Bobby Dick and the Sundowners
July 3▶	40th Army Band
	Onion River Jazz Band
July 4+	at Crystal Beach
July 10✓	Satin and Steel
July 17✓	Starline Rythm Boys
July 24+	Reggie's Ret Hot Feetwarmers
July 31✓	Robert Wuagneux
	Maiden Vermont
August 7✓	Rutland Curbstone Chorus
August 14✓	Will Patton Ensemble
August 21✓	Gross Domestic Products

* special holiday concert
Rain locations
✓ CSC Fine Arts Center
+ Federated Church
▶ Glenbrook Gymnasium





Reel Big Fish, real small turnout: *First ever Castlefest*

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER VOGHELL

Reel Big Fish performs at the first Castlefest in Glenbrook Gymnasium last week in front of nearly two hundred.

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

Castleton students weren't very hungry - not many people showed up for some Reel Big Fish.

The Student Association Activities Board hosted the first ever Castlefest on Sunday, April 29, with artists Schutefurmunde, Duane Carleton and the Backwoods Messiahs, Revision and headliners Reel Big Fish.

"Are they good? I've never listened to them before," asked senior Mackenzie Sivret.

In response to the disappointingly small turn out of around 200 people, Adrian Hill said, "It pisses me off, I'm ashamed, we go to a liberal arts school, what's more liberal than music?" said Hill.

The students that did attend seemed to enjoy the show.

When Reel Big Fish got on stage, Scott Klopfenstein, who plays the trumpet, guitar and sings backup in the band, started the performance like a high school pep-rally.

He yelled, "Yeah, go Mayflower Conference Champions, Men's Tennis 1997...we wanted to start with the encore first," said Klopfenstein.

Reel Big Fish began the show by playing the hit song "Trendy," the term trendy describes the band to a tee. Reel Big Fish play a blend of ska, basically jazz on crack and punk rock. The band also entertains the audience with comedy between songs making for a very fun concert.

Lead singer and guitarist Aaron Barrett was dressed to party, rocking a Hawaiian t-shirt and blue jeans. His guitar playing was fast, wild and had a thrashing punk sound.

At one point, Barrett grabbed a sign from an audience member with the song title "Nothin", it had a black background with white lettering. Barrett made a big stink because the title was spelled wrong saying he wouldn't play the song until the sign was fixed. They then played the song.

Klopfenstein looks like he should be in the band Weezer with that nerdy look because he wears Drew Carey style eyeglasses and a black collared shirt.

Klopfenstein introduced "She's Got a Girlfriend Now" by forming devil horns with both hands and interlocking them together to symbolize lesbian sex.

"Sometimes sex isn't about conception. This song is about two lesbians, yeah a girl left this guy for a girl (referring to Barrett)," said Klopfenstein.

Dan Regan, who plays trombone, looked very interesting. He has crazy sideburns and wore a grey fedora hat with a matching suit jacket and cameo shorts.

One song, Regan really got into and played his lungs out, causing a moshpit to erupt like a volcano in the audience. People started bouncing around with their fists raised high until broken up by security.

"It sucks, they won't let us mosh," said sophomore Jon White.

John Christianson, the trumpet player of the band, was dressed in what appeared to be a navy blue sailor suit.

He randomly, between two songs, pretended to use his trumpet as a bong. He then imitated being high as he stumbled around stage in a stupor.

Christianson is an excellent trumpet player with a lot of energy and charisma. To transition between a cover of Metallica's "Enter Sandman" and "Where Have You Been?" Christianson placed the microphone next to the end of his horn and blew into it making a very loud and powerful sound.

The drumming performed by Ryland Steen was fast, loud and ear pounding. He didn't talk to the audience as much as everyone else, but when he did it was strange.

Steen walked over to the microphone holding a blown up purple rubber glove with a face drawn on it. He then proceeded to have the puppet talk. You couldn't understand what the puppet was saying because it was just some inaudible squeaking sound.

"That's why we don't let rabbit talk," said Barrett.

During the song, "Kiss Me Deadly", Barrett stopped the show to tell Steen that his drumming needed to be a little more punk.

"It was stupid, we have to do it again...make the drums heavier," said Barrett.

This was Steen's moment to shine and truly speak. The drums got insanely heavier, faster and consisted of a lot of symbol smashing.

Bass player, Matt Wong, was unable to perform at Castlefest because his wife was in the hospital having a baby, said a Reel Big Fish crewmember.

Replacement, Gary Gibbs, put on great show; no one seemed to notice he was just a back up bass player.

After playing "Nothin'" Barrett complimented Gibbs for just learning the song on the spot.

Near the end of the performance the band cleverly advertised their new live album and DVD combo.

"Tom do we have copies of our live album? Flash your flashlight once for no, two times for yes," said Barrett. Tom flashed his flashlight twice then Klopfenstein chimed in.

"Tom does herpes ever go away?" said Klopfenstein. Tom turned on the flashlight and left it on. "I'm going to need some sandpaper," replied Klopfenstein.

Afterward, they played "S.R" (Suburban Rhythm) and when the song concluded they exited the stage.

The audience, still wild and full of energy, demanded in an uproar for an encore. They chanted Reel Big Fish, Reel Big Fish and loudly stomped their feet on the floor.

Eventually, Reel Big Fish got back on stage to play a three-song encore ending with they biggest hit "Sell Out."

"I actually knew some of their songs," Sivret said excitedly.

Castlefest also featured bands Schutefurmunde, Duane Carleton and the Backwoods Messiahs and Revision who all went on earlier in the afternoon.

Schutefurmunde consists of some very talented musicians out of Rutland. The band consists of guitarists Jeff Poremski and Casey Grant, drummer Steve Drebber and a bass player whose name I didn't catch. They play a mix of rock, funk, heavy metal and improvisation. They ended their set by playing a cover of Deuce by Kiss.

"I wish they played more songs like the last one," said Castleton technical director Chad Voghell.

Duane Carleton and the Backwoods Messiahs can be classified as rock with elements of country. Many of the band's songs are about living in Rutland. "My Home Town" describes two places I recommend you never go Forest Park and the Gut.

Revision is basically a jazz band but they also have elements of funk and indie rock. They are really groovy and I was actually able to just lose myself in the music and dance. The band as a whole has a real cool and chic vibe.

"The guitar player is nasty, I love it," said junior Sean Morin.

CSC student helps Habitat for Humanity

By Ariel Delaney
Spartan Staff

As you're getting up at 5:45 to catch the 6 AM van, you seem to think about the majority of people who are enjoying the pleasure of sleeping in on a lazy spring Saturday. The dead still of the morning is filled with birds chirping in true early morning fashion, which guides you in case you start to doze off on your way to the Physical Plant.

So you make it and there you meet with the brave members of Castleton's Community Service Club. The few, the proud and the brave.

The only music in the van is the occasional snore from a member who stayed up last night as their head rolls back on the seat. A smile, mornings aren't for everyone.

The ride to Burlington is long and you start to think of your friends, who are sleeping through it all with the scrumptious Huden breakfast awaiting. Then you arrive and there is your palace. You start thinking, "Did I really sign up for this?"

A condemned house and a white t-shirt - this is not a good combination.

With a crowbar in one hand and a hammer in the other, we start the demolition. Bill, the site manager, is the one showing you how to remove the tub from a house that was build at the turn of the century.

You find square nails from the eighteen hundreds and wires that were installed when electricity was invented. During your break you hear more about habitat for humanity and what they do. You think about the family that will receive the house, the zero interest mortgage they will have and your sleep deprivation is subsided.

Not only is it fun to tear down the ceiling and watch dirt rain down on you and your fellow members, but the good shines through as you realize the new life that the future family will have. Rip the carpet, put a hole in the wall, and throw away the trash in the dumpster.

You start to be merry as you get to know other members and all comment on your new perfume of old dry wall. The brown shirt you wear is the honor you have for doing your good deed for the day. As you all clean up you feel a new reward knowing someone will build on the years you have taken off and thrown away.

This was Castleton's first habitat for humanity trip. If you would like to get involved in more trips like this please join the Community Service Club. Contact Jan Rousse for more information.

Kids cut loose with a *camera*

Elementary students from Bridport and Chester-Anndover school visited Castleton on May 3 and took photos as part of a Spartan journalism workshop.

PHOTOS BY STUDENTS FROM BRIDPORT AND CHESTER-ANNDOVER SCHOOL

Top: Construction at Jefford's Center continues.

Bottom: CJ Plante rides the rail outside of Babcock Hall.

REVIEWS

AUDIO:

By David Frederick
Spartan Staff

The Nightwatchman features Tom Morello, who may be best known as the guitarist of Grammy award winning, hip-hop, funk, rock band Rage Against the Machine (RATM), releases solo album 'One Man Revolution.'

Rage Against the Machine formed in 1991 and is best known for their socio-political lyrics. The band released three major albums and one collection of covers featuring Bruce Springsteen's "Ghost of Tom Joad" before breaking up in 2000.

Shortly after the breakup, Morello formed the alternative hard rock band Audioslave. Audioslave is made up of RATM bassist Tim Commerford and drummer Brad Wilk along with x-Soundgarden lead singer,Chris Cornell. Audioslave released three major albums before their eventual breakup in February.

'One Man Revolution' is a tribute to two of Morello's biggest influences Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan. On an electric guitar he is known for making unbelievable computer-like sounds. In this album, Morello trades his electric guitar in for an acoustic. His guitar playing in this album is a bit more conventional, he also plays harmonica and sings in an authentic American-folk style.

Morello told Chris Harris of MTV News that the Nightwatchman is, "A reaction against illicit wars, a reaction against first strikes, torture, secret prisons, spying illegally on American citizens. It's a reaction against war crimes, and it's a reaction against a few corporations that grow rich [off] this illicit war while people beg for food in the city streets."

Three songs that people should definitely check out are "No One Left," "Union Song" and "Flesh Shapes the Day."

In the song "No One Left," Morello sings about how the world has gone black. It's a commentary on 9-11 and the U.S invasion of Iraq and how people with dreams lost their lives. It also has some sick harmonica playing.

"Each one had a dream...no one's left, on the streets of Manhattan, a dusty wind blows...on the streets of Baghdad a dusty wind blows," as an example.

My favorite song on the album is "Union Song," a protest song aimed at corporate America. Morello discusses the firing of the General Motors autoworkers, the outsourcing of jobs to third world countries, people unable to feed their families and sweatshops.

"To the peasant in Guatemala, in a sweatshop got you job, and she can't feed her family on the pennies that she makes," as an example.

"Flesh Saves the Day" is a great song that discusses the stupidity of prejudice in our society. The song begins with Morello stating that he knows for a fact that Jesus was black and that he supports our troops wearing black masks possibly stating that the majority of soldiers are black.

"Skin, scar, dirt and fire, it doesn't matter who you are...what you say...flesh saves the day," as an example.

Any fan of American folk music would love 'One Man Revolution.' Morello resembles Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash and Woody Guthrie, wrapped in one great release in "One Man Revolution."

VIDEO

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

I know the Fox series "24" isn't a movie and movies are what I usually write about, but since it's the end of the year I wanted to do something a little different and review one of my favorite TV shows, "24". Why? Because "24" has a concept that uses cinema verite, which you might guess by reading my previous reviews greatly interests me.

"24" uses the element of cinema verite to sell the idea that each episode takes place in a real time, one hour. Each season is 24 episodes long, making each season a day long. To make it seem like the show actually takes place in 24 hours, the director makes the show a documentary style.

The camera work, lighting and editing all produce the documentary feel. Most of the camera work is done handheld and a lot of the shots pan back and forth during conversations instead of cutting, making it seem like it's actually happening. To make it look like the real world, the lights are set up to create light through windows and realistic shadows, instead of evenly lighting the whole scene like a sitcom. Throughout the show, a split screen effect is used to show that different events are going on at the same time, again, to sell the real time idea to the audience. There is also a clock which pops up every once and a while, but don't expect it to go along with your TV clock, it's usually a minute or two off.

With the real-time concept being pretty interesting the amount of work that the main character Jack Bauer does in one or a couple episodes, I couldn't do in a week. The amount of running around, dodging bullets and killing terrorists he does is a bit unbelievable. Instead of the series taking place in 24 hours, it should take place in 24 days. The episodes are fun to watch, but there's no way anyone could do this much in just one day. They'd be dead or dying from all the stress. When do these people eat? During the commercial breaks?

Alongside the interesting camera work and editing, there is an abundant amount of guest stars. Some include Powers Booth as the Vice President and James Cromwell as Jack Bauer's father, Phillip Bauer. I would have had Donald Sutherland play his father on the show since that's his real father, but I didn't make the show. Each guest star brings in a freshness that keeps the show going.

"24" has been around for five seasons and right now they are showing the sixth season. The people that I've talked to said they didn't want to start watching the show at season six, but to start back at the first season so they're not lost in the shows story and history. I found this unnecessary because season six starts off on a fresh breathe, with Jack coming back from a Chinese prison. So even if you've never even heard of the show you could start watching it with this season and still know what's going on. I wish I did start watching from season one so I could see the differences in each episode, but other fans of the show reassured me that the previous seasons are just as good. I might just go and rent the previous seasons during the summer.

To wrap it up, "24" is a show with an interesting concept, but a pretty unrealistic story. Which has kept some people away from watching the show. I wouldn't let the fact that the amount of action that the characters do in one day is completely unrealistic stop you from watching, because each episode is so gripping and doesn't let go until the end credits roll. If you're into action movies and want to get out of the mundane TV show circuit, then definitely check out "24."

Task force maps big changes

: Education
From page 4

in the spring of 2006 when Castleton President Dave Wolk established the Task Force to Transform Teacher Education. This group, which includes individuals from the education department, the administration, as well as teachers from other departments throughout the college, developed a two-phase plan to reach their reformation objectives.

In the "early discovery phase," as stated in the Teacher Education Program Design report, the task force evaluated the goals of the program and the requirements for teacher licensure in the state of Vermont. The group consulted with members of the college education department, state education officials, and surveyed recent graduates of the program -- as well as area teachers -- to formulate the best possible plan.

Next came the "later discovery phase," which was also outlined in the Teacher Education Design report and simply continued the path of the first phase by consulting education leaders throughout the area to use their expertise to refine and revise the proposed program.

With "well over 100 hours of meetings this past spring and summer," the Task Force to Transform Teacher Education was able to design the new program to solidify Castleton's position as a leading producer of high quality teachers and educators.

When asked about the motives for and the goals of the transformation, Wolk was quick to respond.

"Castleton was originally a teacher training institution, so strengthening our programs for the modern era builds on an already respected program for many decades. We are committed to improving the quality of educators, both teachers and school leaders, in and out of Vermont, so it is important that we have the very best undergraduate and graduate programs for preparing prospective educators and educating those who are already working in our schools," he said. "The Castleton Center for Schools already educates more practicing Vermont teachers than all the other colleges and universities combined."

The new program, highlighted by new requirements and improved course offerings, is also adding the Center for Teacher Education. This "administrative unit," according to the report, will work to "oversee the progress of Castleton education students throughout their undergraduate study and beyond."

This structure will monitor student development with regards to state requirements, maintenance of profiles, and ultimately in the process of job placement.

While much of the transformation went smoothly for the task force, one major challenge was present throughout the whole process.

"Our single biggest challenge, I think, was to convince all of the interested parties that the Task Force report is the opening chapter in what will be an ongoing effort to continually improve teacher education here at Castleton State College," said Honoree Fleming, Associate Academic Dean and Chair of the Task Force.

The group plans to use these current changes to move into the future, one that will continue to seek progression and improvement.

"We expect that our experiences with the new program, as it is phased in, will lead to additional ideas about how to improve the program," she said.

When asked about student reaction to the changes, Fleming responded by citing a series of recent surveys sent out by the task force to recent education graduates.

"They were very satisfied with the education they received from Castleton and many of the ideas incorporated into the new program came from them (the graduates)," said Fleming. "Most of them believed that developing educators should spend more time in the field, a feature of the new program."

Although drastic changes have been made to the education program, both the new and old programs will remain in use for the next three years with current students finishing up under the present standards while students entering Castleton in 2007 will enroll in the new program.

While much of the faculty and administration is confident and excited about the upcoming transformation, some students have felt otherwise. There is a sense of uncertainty around campus about the 2007-2008 school year and many students have made their views known. One of the main concerns is the loss of education department staff and how these changes will affect scheduling.

"It is really kind of scary. Out of the seven current education teachers, I think that only two are returning. I mean I am signing up for classes right now for next year and I have no idea who the teacher will be. They are all 'to be announced,' " said Castleton junior Wendy O'Brien.

Another student, who asked to remain anonymous, took his concerns even further when asked about his thoughts on the changes and the loss of education department faculty.

"I have seriously considered transferring to another college because I am not sure if the school will be able to offer the classes I need for me to complete the requirements in a reasonable amount of time," he said.

Earth Day at CSC

First Earth Day founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson:
"... On April 22, 1970, Earth Day was held, one of the most remarkable happenings in the history of democracy..." ~American Heritage Magazine, October 1993

All Purpose Kitchen Cleaner
1 tsp. Vegetable-based liquid soap
squeeze of lemon or splash of vinegar
1 quart warm water
mix and apply. Wipe clean.

Carpet Deodorizer
1 cup Borax
2 cups cornmeal
mix ingredients in a small bowl. Sprinkle over carpet and let stand for an hour. Vacuum.

Tips for better composting:
Don't throw away your kitchen scraps — add them to the compost pile. Kitchen scraps are typically high in nitrogen.
If you're composting with a compost pile, bigger is often better.
Keep your compost aerated.
Don't let the compost completely dry out
Don't keep your compost too wet so that it gets soggy and starts to stink.
Too much of any one material will slow down the composting process.

PHOTOS BY BETH PANTZER

Top: Natalie Brassill explains her exhibit during the Earth Day activities.
Left: Katie Snyder learns engergy saving tips.

Energy Saving Tips:

Laundry – Use cold water settings, clean the dryer filter after each use, load washer to capacity, in good weather hang clothes outside to dry.

Bathroom – Take a shower instead of a bath, turn off the faucet while you shave.

Kitchen – Control refrigerator and freezer temperatures, clean condenser coils, use microwave ovens when you can.

Shopping:

Buy recycled products.
Buy in bulk or multi-packs.
Combine bags.

Reduce your carbon footprint! Use public transportation, carpool, walk, or bike whenever possible to avoid using your car.

Allow grass clippings to stay on the lawn, instead of bagging them. The cut grass will decompose and return to the soil naturally.

By Beth Pantzer, Spartan Staff

Students: Navigating campus is tough

: Handicap
From page 4

ple sclerosis.

"They use our campus mainly because of the accessibility," Allen said.

Help is there, if you ask for it

Deb Choma, director of the Wellness Center, noted that there was a big difference between those who have a temporary handicap and those who have a long-term handicap. Those with long term handicaps "know how to get in and out of buildings," having been taught. For those who have a short-term disability, she suggests having a friend help out because it will be more difficult.

Choma and Dennis Proulx, head of Residence Life, are willing to work with and make accommodations for students who need them if they just ask.

"It's hard to figure out where priority lies until someone is here experiencing the campus," Proulx said.

They have at times adjusted rooms by taking furniture out or temporarily moving someone to a room that is easier to access.

"All you have to do is let people know where the trouble spots are and we'll make accommodations," Wolk said.

Aiming towards easier access

Renovations to make Castleton more accessible to those who have handicaps started in 2002 when a wheelchair-bound student attended Castleton and "educated us about need for changes," Wolk said.

The new buildings will all meet the American Disabilities Act (ADA), though Perron points out the new buildings don't have the automatic buttons.

Proulx said that the doors are still in regulation according to width and the pressure needed to open the door.

Allen and Wolk discussed how the buttons had a delay on them, rendering them a security issue because someone could easily get in the building when passersby hit the button unnecessarily.

"If you don't need to use the button, then I suggest you don't use it," Allen said.

The Jeffords Center's new lecture hall will have a ramp alongside the walls so someone with a handicap will be able to get around the room. Even the newly renovated Fine Arts Center has adjustable seating to allow for someone with a handicap to sit in a row.

Perron, however, points out that the handicap seat is still on a step and people like her sister would not be able to utilize it.

The new dorms including Castleton Hall and the even newer three home-style dorms have a handicap bathroom that's up to code.

Living in Castleton Hall allowed Saitta to be able to utilize the handicap showers, which she found helpful because she needed to take her rolling computer chair in the shower.

Understanding, but there's a long way to go

Saitta said her professors understood her situation, but she advises students to tell their professors what is going on, which she didn't initially do because of the medication she was on and the pain she was going through.

"It wasn't their fault it didn't work out," she said, explaining that she was in emotional, as well as physical, pain, from not being able to walk or play hockey.

Perron and Olson agreed that their teachers were helpful with extensions and missing classes.

Olson was not able to go to chorus because she could not get down the steps of the FAC where her class was held. And Perron had to schedule several appointments for physical therapy and the surgery date during class.

Despite the understanding nature of teachers and administrators, though, Perron said the college simply isn't fit for those with handicaps and bordered on discrimination because Castleton could not be one of their choices.

Olson agreed.

"Excluding these people doesn't send the right message," Olson said. "They should have an equal opportunity to come here and have the same experience that any of us who are able to walk freely have."

Theater senior project succeeds

By Mike Trzciensky
Spartan Staff

For this year's senior project, members of the theater department decided to connect Black Comedy and The Real Inspector Hound, two British, one-act plays from the 1960's.

Black Comedy started off in the dark, which represented complete light in the world of the characters.

Then there is a power outage, and as the fictional lights go out, the lights on stage come back on again. All of this ironic light gimmickry requires the actors on stage to really concentrate on staying in the world of these characters and not allowing themselves to lose any kind of concentration at all.

This is especially true regarding the scenes that were completely in the dark, where the potential danger for the actors was high.

Luckily, the actors pulled it all off, and even managed to add in a healthy share of physical comedy along the way.

After an intermission, actors Julian DeFelice and Matt Howk came down from within the audience and began The Real Inspector Hound.

A problem with the pit made some of the early lines a bit difficult to hear, but otherwise The Real Inspector Hound was, like its predecessor, another very well performed comedy.

The visual highlight of the play was the dead body portrayed by actor Dave Gabaree, whose part consisted of him laying on the ground and doing all he could not to move for an hour, another difficult task that requires a lot of concentration.

Despite some minor technical problems, this year's senior project was a success.

Both plays were reasonably daring and required a huge amount of concentration from the actors. They were not easy plays to pull off, which made their success all the more impressive.

AHA opposes the war

: War
From page 3

you cannot be pro-war."

Waara made sure to clarify, however, the difference of not being pro-war, but recognizing that sometimes they are inevitable.

"There can be necessary wars," she said.

Joseph Ransmeier, a history major here at CSC, wasn't very surprised by the resolution.

"It doesn't surprise me at all," he said. "There are a number of similarities between the current conflict and the war in Vietnam. Most historians have judged that war as a mistake, so they will most likely look back at the war in Iraq the same way."

Dawley, from a historical perspective, explained his stance a little more:

"Historians are the keepers of collective memory. They remember earlier instances of false claims and distortion of evidence in order to pull the wool over the eyes of citizens. They feel a moral obligation to prevent a recurrence of such abuses of power."

Foote agrees and feels that this renowned group of historians has a bit more credibility than your average Joe in denouncing the war.

"It's good if you want to open debate," he said. "It's not just a group of people like Mothers Against Iraq or something. Since it's professional historians, they have more credentials."

The AHA was chartered by Congress in 1889, making it the oldest professional association of historians. It is also the largest such group. Past presidents Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt were members of AHA, being former historians themselves. President John F. Kennedy was also a member.

For more information on these associations and the resolution, go to www.historians.org or www.historiansagainstwar.org.

CSC holds memorial for shooting victims

: VT
From page 1

down her cheek.

Sims then spoke, saying that it was important to her because the people who died could have been anyone.

"People say it couldn't happen here, but it could happen here," she said.

Sims, who owns a Smith and Wesson Lady .38, doesn't blame guns for what happened. "I'm pro guns, I grew up shooting guns since I was 5," she said.

After the memorial, Sims said that she thought the tragedy would never be forgotten.

"I have already begun talking with students about how we can continue to remember them for years to come, because it didn't happen to them, it happened to us, and all of the college kids across the nation," she said.

Senior, Ariel Delaney, who attended the memorial, came up with the idea of graduates wearing a maroon and orange ribbon as another way of remembering the lives that were lost.

The memorial moved all who attended.

"The memorial was emotional, but it was a good way for closure. The tragedy will never be forgotten," said Ashley Given, who was in attendance.

ON THE STREET

Jackie Borelli

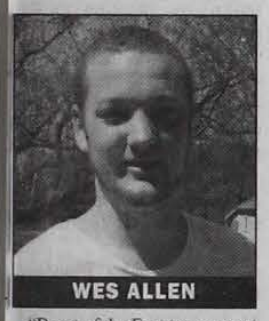
Q: What's your most memorable moment at Castleton?

DITTER LAPHAM

"Anything to do with my rugby girls and driving into Lake Bomoseen with my good friend Vicki."

EMILY O'CONNOR

Hanging out with my friends, and the weekends are my memorable moments."



WES ALLEN

"Beast of the East tournament in Rhode Island."

KELLEY O'BRIEN

"I remember stopping for cows on North Road. Coming from the city it was a huge difference. It was my first cow encounter ever!"

TODD HASKINS

"Winning the Battle of the Brook this past year."

Nice to meet you: *Sandy Duling*

Sandy, the Library Director for Castleton State College, is an author of a road bicycling guide from East Poultney, VT.

Jazmin Averbuck, Spartan Staff

Birthday:
October 16, 1948

Favorite color:
"Green, they're all nice"

Favorite season:
"Autumn, I think it's the most beautiful season."

Favorite author:
"Jane Austin."

Favorite song:
"'Scatter the Mudd', it's a traditional Irish jig."

How long have you worked at Castleton State College?
"Twenty-four years."

What do you like most about your job?
"I like meeting with the students."

What do you like most about your job?
"The kids, there are just so many backgrounds and I admire all their aspirations."

Do you prefer fiction or nonfiction?
"Non-fiction but it comes and goes."

What are you plans for the summer?
"I work here all summer but I will also be doing a lot of biking and working on a biking book."

Fondest memory of Castleton State College in 2006-2007?
""Beginning of construction on the science building. Not that all the noise and digging are particularly notable. It's the prospects for the future that are so encouraging and exciting."

Advice for students?
"Don't let people tell you that you can't do something. Think big and broaden your horizons."

Alumni Profile

"I know Castleton helped mold me into the person I am today. Thank you."

Yvonne Payrits

Deciding to attend college was not an easy decision for me. All through high school, I was planning to go to college. I took college-prep courses, SAT's, and did everything I was supposed to as if I were going to college. But for whatever reason, I decided not to go. No one had ever been to college in my family, so there was no pressure there. After a year of working in Rutland, I decided to move to Burlington. After four years of working and living in Burlington, I again needed a change. Even though I was making enough money to live on my own, I was not happy with my job or where I was headed. The most logical change would be college, so I went.

Even though I lived in a city with many good colleges, I decided I was only applying to Castleton. Why? Truthfully, I do not know. I just knew that was where I belonged. I applied to Castleton, was accepted, and moved back to Rutland. I started at Castleton as a 23-year-old freshman. I was very self-conscious and thought everyone would know I was older. I started Castleton as a non-traditional student but that quickly changed.

While a student, I worked in various work-study positions, which exposed me to all the activities happening on campus.

During my second semester, I became involved in student activities, which led to me becoming involved in all aspects of student life. I joined so many committees and groups; I cannot name them all. It all culminated with being elected Student Association President.

After graduating from Castleton, I moved to Chicago. I worked at Kendall College and after two years decided I would attend graduate school. My boss at the time graduated from Rosary College and suggested I check the school out. She even took me on a tour. The minute I stepped on campus, it reminded me of Castleton. Once again, I found I was only applying to one school. I was accepted at Rosary College, which became Dominican University during my first year. I was nervous about my preparation for graduate school.

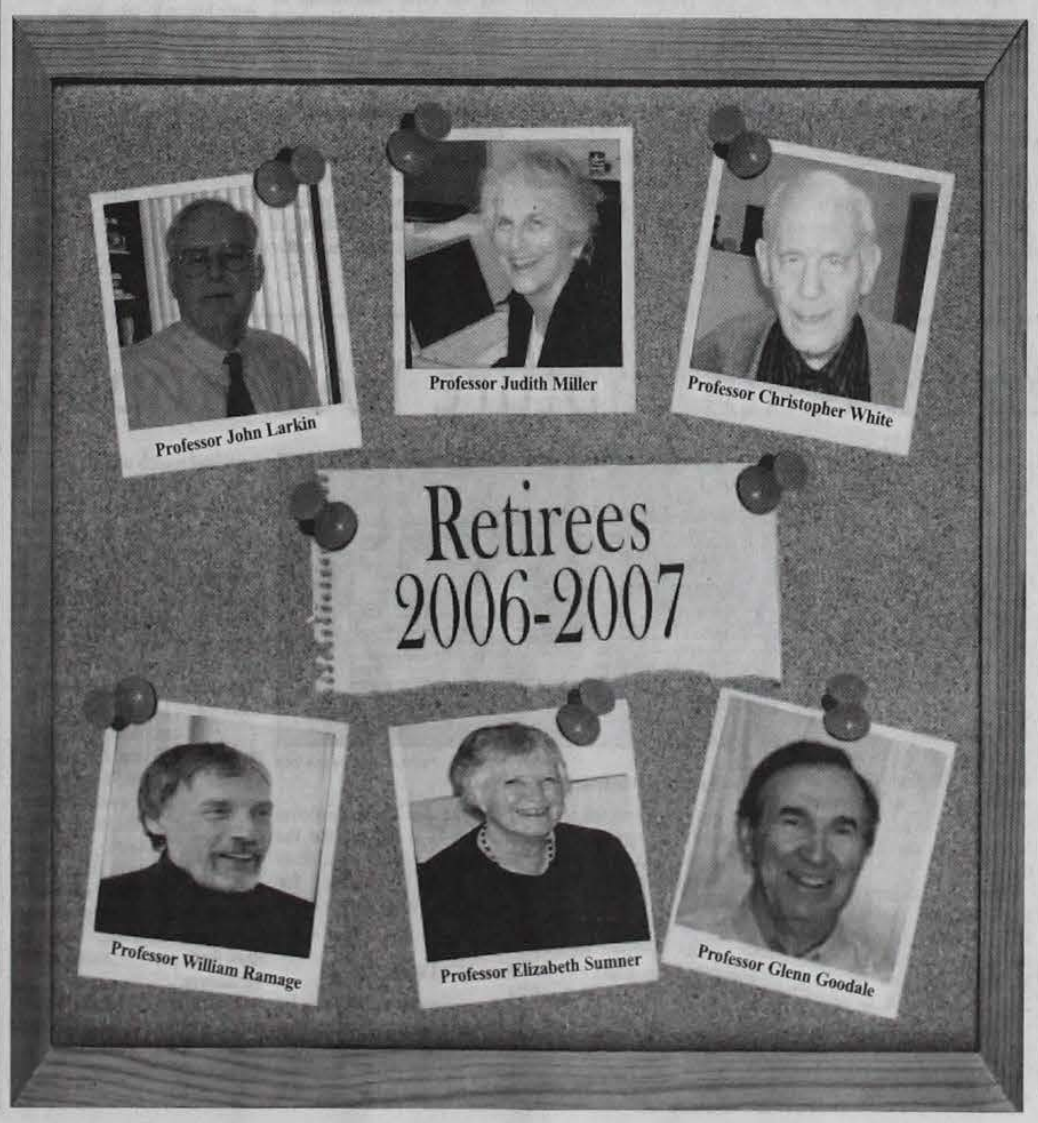
Even though I did well on the GMAT's, I was coming from a small school in rural Vermont to attend a fast-paced school in a very urban area. I soon learned that I was more than prepared for graduate school and I did extremely well, thanks to my education at Castleton.

I now have a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration/Management from Castleton and a Master of Science in Organization Management/Human Resource Management from Dominican University.

Even though my formal education is in business, I have worked in the education field since graduating from Castleton. I have mainly worked in the academic arena, either in a registrar capacity or as professor/teacher. I have held the positions of Assistant Professor of Business, Webmaster, Assistant/Associate Registrar, and Computer Teacher.

I loved being a student at Castleton and have many memories of my time there. Since I am now back in Vermont, I thought it would be good and right to give back to the Castleton community, so I am now serving on the Board of Directors of the Castleton Alumni Association, which I am thoroughly enjoying.

Looking back, I now know that I would never have done so well in college if I did not wait the five years I did to attend college. I know I would not be working with computers or in education; I know I would not be the well-rounded, educated person who sees the world differently than pre-college times; and I know I would not be as successful without the influence and education of CSC. I loved every aspect of my tenure at Castleton. I know Castleton helped mold me into the person I am today. Thank you.



"out of CONTEXT"

overheard on campus

Professor: I don't know what a cow with schizophrenia would look like.
- heard in Black Science

Male Student: Kissing you is like kissing my brother.
- heard in Castleton Hall

Professor: If you can't have fun with sex, you're really hopeless.
- heard in Black Science

Student: I'm a messy eater; I have to take my clothes off.
- heard in Castleton Deli

Student: On our final exam, are we like allowed to use, um, notes?
Professor: Notes?
- heard in Stafford Academic Center

Student: I used to have a matchbox car like that cement mixer. It was my favorite and the back turned. And then I grew up to be a lesbian.
- heard by Black Science Construction

Professor: When a person has disorganized schizophrenia, they're really f***ed up.
- heard in Black Science

Female Student: It kind of works but it seems to volumptuate my thighs.
- heard in Leavenworth Parking Lot

Student: Your face is like life.
- heard in Castleton Hall

Student 1: I don't ever drive that way, because the speed bumps like slow me down.
Student 2: Duh.
- heard by Fine Arts Center

Professor: Are you serious? *(pauses and looks what student is doing)* Holy s**t, don't do that!
- heard in Stafford Academic Center

Student to Professor: (during presentation) I didn't get that, but if you say so, I'll believe you.
- heard in Leavenworth Hall

Student: When you hear that noise, doesn't it remind you of a cheap hotel?
- heard by Black Science Construction

Student 1: Do I see it? Do I see it?
Student 2: No, you don't see it.
- heard in Castleton Hall

Student: I always wanted to be the hand in the Adam's family.
- heard in Black Science

Male Student: I don't look good in a dress, but a girl would look good in my clothes.
- heard in Black Science

Student: That looks good, whatever you're trying to do.
- heard in Castleton Hall

Professor: I think it'd be fun; they think I'm crazy. Maybe we're both right.
- heard in Leavenworth Hall

Professor: Some cases are acute, some are chronic. Either way it hurts.
- heard in Black Science

Student: How is that equal opportunity? What if you're retarded?
- heard in Castleton Hall

Student: What is she doing with the hot guy?
- heard inLeavenworth Hall

Overheard something out of context on campus?

You can send what you've overheard on campus to thespartan@castleton.edu

Men's tennis team capture NAC trophy

Tennis

By Shannon Scirla
Spartan Staff

If winning championships is the type of thing you're into, then take a glance at the Castleton Men's tennis team.

For the second consecutive year, and the third time in four years, the Spartans have raised the North Atlantic Conference Championship trophy, defeating Johnson State College 5-4.

"What separates our team from other teams in the conference is we have talent at every seed," said sophomore Jessee Maranda.

Maranda, who was the NAC player of the week twice this season, says he can't wait to bring a three-peat to C-Town.

Castleton put up a stellar 8-4 record this season and the future for Castleton tennis looks even brighter.

Of the eight man roster, Castleton suited one freshman, four sophomores, two juniors and only one senior.

The whole starting lineup returns to the courts for Castleton again next spring.

"Johnson is our biggest rival and they lose their two top players.

Unless they do some serious recruiting we feel like we are in the driver seat for a three peat," said junior Jeremy Henderson.

Tennis is viewed as an individual event sport, but the Spartans pride themselves on the fact that they won all three doubles events in the tournament.

"Most people on campus don't even know that we have won two championships in a row," said Maranda who is frustrated with the lack of recognition this school gives to the tennis program despite the fact they are arguably the most successful team this campus has, and without a doubt the most dominant spring sport.

The only downfall to the Spartans success is the lack of teams they have in their conference.

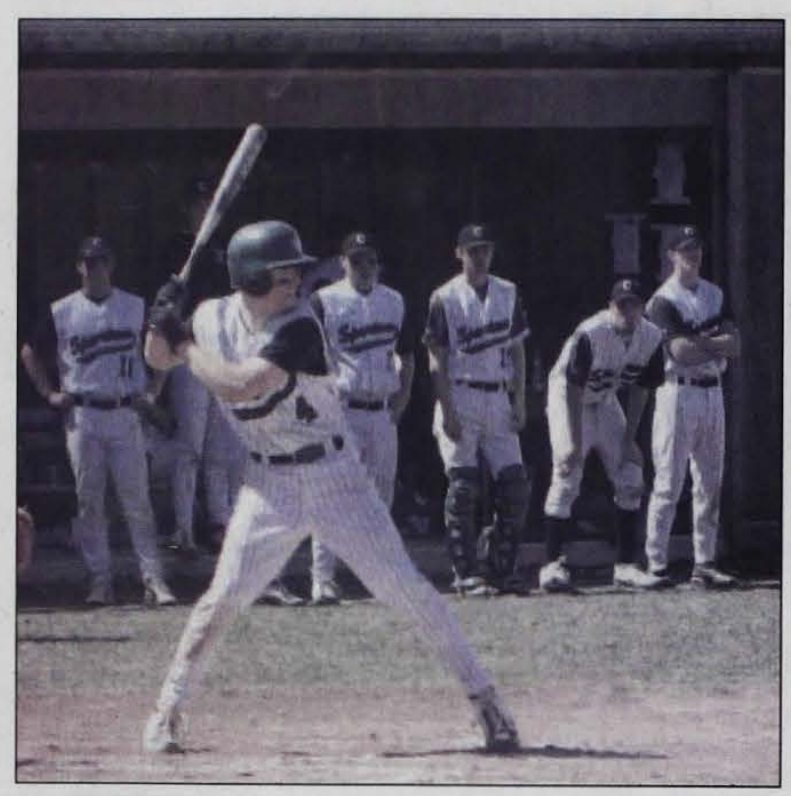
Because there are only four men's tennis teams in the NAC, they are not eligible for national tournament play despite their overwhelming success.

The NCAA demands that there are six teams in a conference in order to play in the National Tournament. The Spartans along with the rest of the NAC is trying desperately to add at least two colleges.

Among the candidates to enter the NAC are Norwich University, Green Mountain College and Lyndon State College.

Steps have already been taken to add teams to the conference, but until anything has become official the only thing the Spartans can do is, sit and hope for their chance to play in a future national tournament.

Freshman shortstop shines for Spartans



PHOTOS BY JACQUELINE BORELLI
Travis Bass waits for a pitch in a recent home game against Thomas College.

By Shannon Scirla
Spartan Staff

The Spartan baseball team failed to bring home a championship this year, but the dazzling play of freshman phenom Travis Bass left the team with something to be happy about - and possibly to look forward to.

Nobody knew what to expect from Bass coming out of the gates in the 2007 season, but if there were any critics at the time, they have been silenced.

If there are trophies given out for the different statistical leaders, Bass is going to need to a Dump trunk to bring home his hardware.

Besides being named North Atlantic Conference rookie of the year, Bass was among the leaders in batting average (.435), slugging percentage (.609) and on base percentage (.494) That still wasn't enough for Bass, who also went onto lead the league with a superb 60 hits and 47 runs scored.

"I have been successful because of good off season preparation," said Bass a few days before his Spartans get tossed from the NAC tournament.

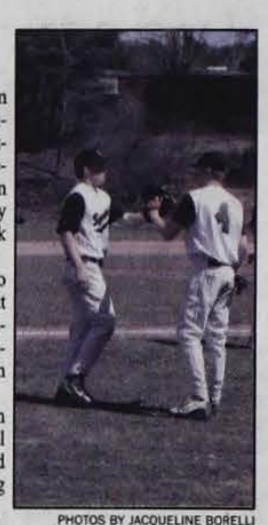
The Spartans were victorious in the first round, where their bats exploded for 16 runs and their pitchers allowed only one run in defeating Maine Farmington.

But day two for Coach Ted Shipley's squad sang a different tune as they were smacked by St. Josephs College 12-1.

Bass and his teammates were a number one seed entering the NAC tournament as they possessed a stellar 10-2 conference record.

He credits the team's assistant coaches for the team's success this season on the diamond.

"Coach Godlewski and Coach Kimbler have been huge. Their outstanding dedication is what has helped the team stay focused and ready for battle during the season," said Bass.



PHOTOS BY JACQUELINE BORELLI
Travis Bass (4)

Bass says first year coach Kimbler is responsible for his potent bat and stellar defensive skills in the field. Bass, the team's leadoff hitter, started all 35 games at shortstop for the green this season.

"I have been successful because of good off season preparation and the coaching of coach Kimbler, helping me at the plate with a good offensive approach," Bass said.

Bass said he wishes that the team could have seen more home games this season, but all the snow Vermont saw this spring wouldn't allow that to happen.

Castleton hopes their Ozzie Smith like shortstop will return to C-Rock next year, but because of his standout play, division I and II teams have begun to take notice.

Bass declined to make any comments on whether he's packing up or sticking it out at CSC.

"Nothing is going to be handed to us or the team, but I expect to improve as a player and a student," said Bass.

Enter as top seed, bumped in semifinal

Baseball

By Matt Linden
Spartan Sports Editor

With the double-elimination conference tournament hosted by St. Joseph's (Maine), the Castleton baseball team entered a four-team field as the top seed.

The Spartans, beginning postseason action with a record of 25-10 and 10-2 in the NAC, met fourth-ranked Maine-Farmington in the tourney's opener.

Junior outfielder Chris Ragis went 3-for-5 and drove in four runs, while freshman Travis Bass also pounded out a trio of hits to lead Castleton to a dominating 16-1 victory. Tom Cummings pitched seven scoreless innings and allowed only three hits.

It is always tough to defeat a team on its home turf, a challenge which the Spartans needed to overcome against St. Joseph's.

The hosts jumped out to an early lead with a home run in the first inning and would cruise to win 12-1.

Castleton did not have an answer offensively, producing only two hits to the Monks' 16.

Now with their backs on the ropes and one game to decide who will play St. Joseph's in the final, the Spartans and Husson College battled it out to keep their respective seasons alive.

Husson, coming off eliminating Maine-Farmington from the tournament, delivered the knockout punch to Castleton in a 6-5 ballgame.

Coach Shipley's Spartans won 14 of 15 games to close out the regular season, but exited the NAC Playoffs for the fourth consecutive year.

Both Cummings and fellow pitcher Ron Cahill represented the school as selections to the ten-player All Tournament team.

This season's 26 wins set an all-time Castleton record, surpassing the 2002 squad's 24 victories.

Men's tennis team capture NAC trophy

Lacrosse

By Beth Pantzer
Spartan Staff

The score looked familiar but much more was on the line this time around.

The men's lacrosse team fell 11-10 in overtime to Mount Ida Saturday. Just two weeks prior, the Spartan scoreboard read the same after the Mustangs handed Castleton its first North Atlantic Conference loss. This time it wasn't just a conference loss - it was a championship loss.

With the win, top-seeded Mount Ida claimed its fourth consecutive NAC championship. The second-seeded Spartans were unable to stop the Mustangs, whom have not loss in 29 match-ups against NAC teams, from continuing their 11-game win streak.

Coach David Wiezalis' squad took a quick 2-0 lead and was up 6-2 halfway into the second period. But by the end of the first half, the Spartans were holding onto only a one-goal lead.

Andrew Cloonan tied the game 6-6 for Mount Ida just over three minutes into the third period. The Spartans gained the lead back off a Jake Rick goal less than a minute later. However, Leo Shidler and John Lightbown answered with consecutive goals to give Mount Ida its first lead (8-7). Adam Rosati found the net one minute later to keep the Spartans even with the Mustangs at the end of the third.

Rosati opened the scoring in the fourth but Lightbown tied it with just under six minutes left and Anthony DiMarsico gave Mount Ida a 10-9 lead with 2:12 remaining. With just 34 seconds left, the Spartans sent the game into overtime after Geoffrey Walker capitalized on a power play.

PHOTOS BY BETH PANTZER
Castleton's Michael Martinez goes for a goa l.

The Mustangs won the opening face-off in overtime and following a timeout, Cloonan netted the game-winner 36 seconds in.

Rosati led the Spartans with four goals while Robbie Scanlon had two goals and an assist. Goalie Michael Mamunes made nine saves.

For their efforts, Matt VanDerKar, Rosati and Alex Brown were named to the All-Tournament team.

Despite the loss, Castleton (10-5, 6-1) is eligible for the Eastern College Athletic Conference Tournament for which first round games begin April 9.

Women's Lacrosse

Despite a hat trick by Stephanie Pearce, the Spartan women fell to Worcester State 16-6 in the New England Women's Lacrosse Alliance semifinal match up.

The Lancers started the scoring 25 seconds into the game. Pearce tied the game for the Spartans but Worcester answered with five straight goals to take a 6-1 lead at just over the six-minute mark. Pearce's second goal couldn't give Castleton any drive as Worcester found the net three more times before the half.

Continuing to outshoot the Spartans, the Lancers opened the second half with another three goals before Pearce stopped the momentum. Aimee Goulette, Nicole Bouchard and Erin Barry each contributed a goal for Castleton in the final 12 minutes but Worcester answered with its own three goals to maintain the advantage.

The Spartans ended its season 5-2 in the NEWLA and 6-6 overall, the most wins in the history of the program.

Sports Column

Tony Trombetta

Heck of a Saturday

Cinco de Mayo. May 5, 2007. My bachelor party at Muckenshnabel's in Rutland, Vt. What could be better?

It's six days before my wedding. And for someone who loves to drink and watch sports as much as I do, it is the best day ever.

Let me tell you why ... as far as I can recall ...

In the car on the way to my fete I'm listening to the Yankees on the radio and Chien Ming Wang has a perfect game through 3. Perfect.

An hour and six to eight beers later and Wanger still has the perfect game intact in the 6th.

The horses are trotting to post as the fastest two minutes in sports is about to begin. I am in heaven.

Oh yea, it's Derby day as well.

And oh yea, later on, it's the "Fight of the Century" as Pretty Boy Floyd Mayweather Jr. takes on the Golden Boy. Wow.

So, I'm pretty bombed and not overly upset when Ben Broussard pulls a shot to right center out of his ass over the blue Yankee Stadium wall in a very upsetting manner.

The perfect game is gone but the Yanks are obviously going to win and the gates just opened.

They're off, and the stag party faithful are glued to the other TV because we all have $5 invested in a winner take all blind draw Derby pool.

I turned to the bartender for another beer and by the time I return my attention to the race, it is no more.

Street Sense, the odds on favorite, burst to the lead after being well towards the back of the pack for much of the race.

Believe it or not, the favorite actually won this edition of the first leg of the Triple Crown.

I lost the pool and Wang lost his no-no, but I'm not going to let the bumps in the road get in the way of my personal athletic endeavor in which I am striving to drink as much alcohol as humanly possible.

And oh yes. I won. Or so they tell me.

Not only did I win, I excelled. At one point, the future Mrs. Trombetta called me out on the fact that I was wobbling like the Russian at the end of Rocky IV.

"I'm dancing," I said.

Score one for me.

I unfortunately lost that point later over what I'll simply describe as a slight error in judgment.

I've experienced a lot of great days for sports in my life but May 5, 2007 was definitely toward the top of the list.

I didn't even mention the fact that a golf tournament in which Tiger Woods was in the hunt was being televised.

I also didn't mention that there was a game 7 in the Western Conference quarters between the Jazz and the Rockets.

I also didn't mention the fact that I kicked the day off with the LPGA. I know what you're thinking. I'm not a sick person. I'm a sports fan!

On Sunday, that day I experienced the day before became the second best day ever, because my Yanks signed the Rocket Roger Clemens.

Best weekend ever?

You better believe it.